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A 'Slow Grind' Ahead For Global Economy

Experts See Tame 2.5% Growth Rate Even in America ('Good as It Gets')

By Erik Ipsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — When will this grinding recession end? And how? As encouraging evidence of an American economic recovery crowds in almost daily, much of the rest of the industrial world looks impatiently for hopeful signs on home soil.

But there, the news is not blissful. For the Continent and for Japan, the grimness will endure a considerable while longer, with no recovery clearly under way before year's end or early 1995, economists and analysts say.

"I'd describe the outlook for Western Europe in just three letters, Y-U-K," said David Roche, chief strategist for Morgan Stanley International in London.

That, at least, is better than most economists' assessments of the state of the Japanese economy, which is widely referred to as "terrible." There, the sudden implosion of the financial bubble and the faltering response of the government to the crisis continues to rattle the corporate sector.

"I think it will be a fairly slow grind out of the global recession," said Ian Amstutz, an economist with Bankers Trust in London.

Four years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the ultimate triumph of capitalism, the victors and their vaunted system find themselves in a creeping crisis. Long accustomed to economic cycles in which the ebbs tide of recession are more than reversed by strong surges of recovery, the industrialized world is seeing something new: the rising tide that fails to lift all ships.

"Growth in the '90s will be consistently and systematically below trend," predicted David Kern, chief economist for National Westminster Bank in London. "The only thing you can say is that at least it will be sustainable."

Stripped by years of fiscal excess and by the resulting mountains of government debt of the common theme to reinvigorate their economies — deficit spending — the rich countries find themselves bereft of economic elixirs.

The result is that the envy of the industrial world — the United States and Britain, the two best performing economies — are two economies whose growth rates stand at barely half of what they were in the 1980s.

In the United States, however, optimism has mounted in recent days. On the back of such bullish news as a surge in manufacturing activity to its highest level in nearly a year, some experts now say that the economy

is growth may have spurred ahead to as much as a 5 percent pace in the final quarter. But they quickly add that such rates are not sustainable, pointing to such warning signs as growth in consumer spending now far outstripping income growth. Most analysts say they believe that the economy will loop along at the same lackluster 2.5 percent per annum expansion rate it has averaged since the recovery began in America in the spring of 1991.

"This is as good as it gets in the U.S.," said Nigel Gault, chief economist with DRU/McGraw-Hill in London. In Britain, meanwhile, in the wake of a recession far worse than that in America and in spite of rising hope of a strong rebound from it, most forecasts show the economy expanding at the same, tame, 2.5 percent rate this year.

Although most economists see both Europe and Japan joining North America and Britain on the growth path in 1995, few if any predict the normal sort of surge that sends unemployment plummeting and incomes notching up once again.

Unable to paper over the economic cracks with a string of Keynesian spending, and unwilling to do the job with loose monetary policies out of a fear of rekindling inflation, governments are increasingly edging toward more radical but slower acting solutions.

"The tools that remain are not much," said Peter Pietsch, senior vice president at Commerzbank in Frankfurt. "It is wage restraint and deregulation and things like that."

The problem with those solutions is twofold. They take years to achieve their desired effects, and they hurt. Take the current favorite among business people and private economists: labor deregulation and enhanced labor market flexibility. Most of the experts concede that these remedies are only

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See GRIND, Page 14



Mr. Clinton speaking Wednesday at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Prague with the presidents of the Visegrad Group of nations, from left: Michal Kovac of Slovakia, Lech Walesa of Poland, Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic and Arpad Guncz of Hungary.

Clinton Hints NATO Would Defend East From Attack

Remarks Appear to Go Beyond 'Partnership' On Security Guarantees

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PRAGUE — President Bill Clinton signaled Wednesday that NATO would come to the defense of new democracies in Eastern Europe if they were attacked.

Mr. Clinton was speaking at a joint news conference with the leaders of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary after trying to dispel doubts over his Partnership for Peace plan.

The plan, endorsed by a summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, provides for closer military cooperation between NATO and East European countries without giving them concrete security guarantees.

But Mr. Clinton appeared to go further than the text of the Partnership when he was asked whether it was conceivable, given the lessons of World War II, that NATO would fail to come to the aid of an East European country if it were invaded or subject to military aggression.

Mr. Clinton replied that he thought it was "doubtful" that there would be no help. "I think your reading of our reading of history is right," he said.

But the president added that he did not believe any of the former Warsaw Pact members faced the threat of imminent attack. "Of course, there are always concerns that in the future the darker past might be recreated," he said, adding that there could be "expansionism again."

Mr. Clinton told the leaders of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia — the so-called Visegrad Group — that the West has a major stake in the well-being of their nations.

"Let me be absolutely clear," he said. "The security of your state is important to the security of the United States."

He sought to minimize the fact that NATO stopped short of offering the four nations full membership, and he dismissed a question about whether the Partnership made the East European countries second-class cousins.

"The question is no longer whether NATO will take on new members, but when and how," the president said.

On fears among the former Soviet bloc states toward Russia, Mr. Clinton said, "I think the Russian position, the position of the present administration there, is that they will respect the territorial boundaries of their neighbors."

Though the four Visegrad countries had all reluctantly accepted the Partnership plan, Mr. Clinton came to ease lingering concerns. But even after he "sold" the idea to the leaders in separate one-on-one talks, they made clear that their long-term aim remained full NATO membership.

President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic said that the Partnership was not "a substitute for full NATO membership" but rather a "first step." He said his colleagues from Poland, Slovakia and Hungary had very similar attitudes on the issue.

The White House also issued a statement on Wednesday announcing a major expansion of Overseas Private Investment Corporation programs in Central and Eastern Europe.

The organization will accept proposals for privately managed investment funds in the region, and increase its per-project lending limit from \$50 million to \$200 million. (Reuters, AP)

See PROBE, Page 3

White House Calls for a Special Counsel

Reversal Comes After Cloud Grows Over Clintons' Finances

By Paul F. Horvitz
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — An embarrassed and frustrated White House decided Wednesday to reverse itself and ask for an independent investigation of the Clinton family finances and the president's former ties with a failed savings and loan in Arkansas.

As President Bill Clinton went to Kiev, Ukraine's capital, and then on to his summit meeting in Moscow, senior aides were preparing an official statement on the issue to be issued later in the day, a White House official said.

At the same time, Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, the minority leader, called for a special bipartisan congressional investigation of the savings and loan and the Clintons' ties to it.

The select committee he envisions is the same type that recently studied the Bank of Credit & Commerce International and that 20 years ago held hearings leading to the resignation of President Richard Nixon after a White House cover-up of a political burglary at the Watergate complex.

The Associated Press and Reuters quoted government sources as saying that the White House statement would call for the appointment of an independent counsel, a step Mr. Clinton has long resisted.

Aides apparently concluded that their weeks of denials in the face of relentless political criticism and news media investigations had failed to subdue public discussion of the president's veracity.

In recent days, leading members of Mr. Clinton's Democratic Party said they believed that he should turn over all his personal files related to a disputed real estate venture in Arkansas and seek an inquiry independent of Justice Department officials who are now conducting their own review.

This decision by important members of the president's own party appeared to be the final straw and once again displayed the tenuous quality of Mr. Clinton's political stature in Congress.

For weeks, Republicans had called for an independent investigation of relationship of the president and his wife, Hillary, to the failed savings and loan and its former owner, James B. McDougal, a Clinton ally who helped finance his campaigns for governor of Arkansas and who brought the Clintons into the real estate venture, a development called Whitewater.

No evidence has emerged that the Clintons did anything illegal or improper. But like many

See CHINA, Page 2

Paris and Beijing Reconcile, but Taiwan Will Get a Last Jet Shipment

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

PARIS — After a yearlong dispute over French sales of jet fighters to Taiwan, France and China said Wednesday they would restore friendly relations on the basis of a commitment from the conservative government of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur to ban any further arms sales to Taiwan.

With the Chinese economy booming, but French companies effectively excluded from bidding for contracts there since the decision in November 1992 to sell 60 Mirage jets to Taiwan, the announcement amounted to a potentially important development for France's recession-hit economy.

"In view of the concerns of the Chinese side, the French government has undertaken not to authorize any French enterprises to participate in the arming of Taiwan," a joint statement said.

It added that France "recognizes the government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China and Taiwan as an integral part of the Chinese territory."

This amounted to a restatement, apparently at Chinese insistence, of France's policy since it became the first Western country to recognize Communist China in 1964.

China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province ever since the Nationalists fled to the island after losing the 1949 civil war. Taiwan still claims to be the legitimate government of all China.

As part of the new agreement, which is to be bolstered by a visit to Beijing by Mr. Balladur in March, China said it would "welcome participation by French enterprises in competition on the Chinese market on an equal footing."

Taiwan condemned the French decision to ban future arms sales, expressing "deep regret" and saying security in the Asia-Pacific region would be weakened.

Following the sale of the Mirage 2000-5 jet fighters to Taiwan, which was valued at about \$3.8 billion, China ordered France to close its consulate in the southern city of Guangzhou, the heart of one of the world's fastest growing regions, and banned French companies elsewhere in China also complained of being placed at a disadvantage.

With Europe still in recession and the Chinese economy growing at an annual rate of about 13 percent, the Chinese market is important to European firms — a fact underscored by the approximately \$4 billion in new contracts secured by Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany during a visit to China.

See CHINA, Page 2

Kiosk Ciampi Is Poised To Quit in Italy

ROME (AP) — Deputy adjourned late Wednesday a parliamentary session devoted to a no-confidence motion in the government of Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, who said earlier in the day he was ready to submit his resignation whatever the outcome, but "not before the parliamentary debate is over."

The motion, which observers said was certain to be defeated, was debated amid growing signs that President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro was poised to dissolve Parliament.

Soccer Player Knifed

STUTTGART, Germany (AP) — A woman stabbed a member of the Hamburg SV soccer team, Oliver Müller, on Wednesday as he was watching an indoor tournament here, the police said. His wounds were not reported to be life-threatening.

African Franc Devaluation Sets Off Shopping Frenzy

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Residents of West African cities took to the streets Wednesday as prices began to soar after the devaluation of the CFA franc, a move with radical social implications for most of the countries concerned.

By the end of the morning, most basic products were no longer to be found on store shelves in Abidjan, capital of Ivory Coast, where prices had sometimes doubled and buyers expected worse to come.

In Niamey, capital of Niger, one of the 14 African countries to share the Communauté Financière Africaine franc currency, the Score supermarket was overwhelmed by shoppers despite its reputation as the most expensive in the country.

"People are crazy, they're even snatching up local products whose prices shouldn't go up!" a merchant said.

Many stores remained closed, ostensibly to take inventory.

"No one wants to be the first to increase prices," said a Lebanese trader selling electrical goods in Abidjan.

The 50 percent devaluation of the CFA franc was forced on reluctant African leaders on Tuesday at a meeting of national leaders in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, by France and the International Monetary Fund. The IMF considered the currency greatly overvalued and said the devaluation was vital to help pull the Africans out of a vicious recessionary spiral.

The African franc has been pegged at 50 to the French franc since 1948 and has been guaranteed by Paris. In cutting the CFA franc's value in half, to 100 to the French franc, France put pocketbook before pride.

But Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said, "This courageous step... will restore competitiveness and encourage growth."

Mr. Camdessus said Wednesday that up to 10 billion French francs (\$1.69 billion) in loans would be provided by the IMF to "facilitate" the transition.

See CFA, Page 11



Shoppers jamming an Abidjan supermarket after the African franc was devalued.

Ukraine to Sign Pact to Get Rid Of Its Arsenal

By Ann Devroy and Dan Williams
Washington Post Service

KIEV — President Bill Clinton and President Leonid M. Kravchuk of Ukraine on Wednesday praised the benefits of an agreement to rid this republic of its nuclear warheads as they began a delicate political dance meant to bolster the pact against assaults by its critics here.

Their joint appearance at a press conference following talks at the Kiev airport seemed to put to rest doubts about whether Mr. Kravchuk would sign the accord on Friday in Moscow with Mr. Clinton and President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia.

Mr. Clinton stressed the economic benefits to Ukraine as it gives up its arsenal of 1,800 warheads. He cited compensation for the uranium in the warheads, international loans, increased trade and new foreign aid.

"We are prepared to increase our support substantially as Ukraine moves toward economic reform," Mr. Clinton said.

"This day and the days to follow will open the road to disarmament for the world," Mr. Kravchuk said.

Statements Tuesday by a Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman that the agreement might not be ready for signing Friday, when Mr. Clinton, Mr. Kravchuk and Mr. Yeltsin meet in Moscow, were wrong, U.S. officials said.

Administration officials would not be drawn into a debate in Ukraine over whether it was a treaty that needed parliamentary approval or whether it was a stand-alone agreement that could be fully put into effect without approval by the legislative branch.

A U.S. official described Ukraine as "divided

See UKRAINE, Page 4

For Texas Death Row Inmates, There's Life on the Job

By Francis X. Clines
New York Times Service

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — The death row garment factory is humming at midday. Condemned murderers wield scissors and razor-sharp knives as they snip and finish piles of work pants at their sewing machines. A few chat at the coffee urn within relaxed sight of their caged-off guard.

Life goes on and new work pants move smoothly through the skilled hands of the legally doomed 58-man work shift. In the skilled hands of the legally doomed 58-man work shift. In the skilled hands of the legally doomed 58-man work shift. In the skilled hands of the legally doomed 58-man work shift.

The booming workplace, designed for and operated exclusively by a death row community, is the only such prison enterprise in the United States. It has a total of 115 workers, and places for 85 more are being planned.

The work here, mundanely tick along in an almost poetic display of the assembly-line routine that is settling about capital punishment in Texas and in other of the 36 states that allow it. The factory is being seen as a better way to pass time on the nation's death rows, which have become increasingly busy since the Supreme Court allowed the reinstitution of capital punishment in 1976.

Here, human beings judged incorrigibly beyond the entitlement to freedom and life busy themselves making some final goods for society. As the bobbins whirl, convicts seize the work as a final chance to confront society's judgment of their lives' worthlessness.

"A lot of people who have worked on the death row factory are dead anyway, so it's mostly to prove something to yourself," said James Beathard, a 36-year-old inmate who has been sewing in the sewing machine during legal procedures for the full seven years of the garment factory's existence.

"We do it to say, 'By God, I showed them I'm not really the threat they think I am,'" he said of the satisfaction the factory gives in allowing a man to end life as a simple reliable worker. "It's weird," he added, "but when you hit Friday's shift, and arrive at the end of the week, why, everybody's looking forward to the weekend! As if they were back in the free world."

But the garment workers are nowhere near free.

All arrive on death row by way of murder convictions. There comes a moment of silence at the sewing machines the morning after an execution. But then work clatters back to life.

State officials say that the death row workers are the most productive in the prison's statewide system of assorted manufacturing ventures. Violent infractions and malingering are rare.

"Some guys turn down the factory job, saying, 'Why should I be making clothes for the people who are going to kill me?'" said Todd Willingham, a 25-year-old condemned man who works on the garment line. "They're taking us hard and fast now with new laws to speed up the killing, and my mind wanders less at the sewing machine."

The factory, whose work force is voluntary and screened, is

See CONDEMNED, Page 3

Crossword Page 17

Dow Jones	1,688	Trib Index	111.90
Down	1,688	Down	111.90
Up	1,688	Up	111.90

The Dollar	Wed. close	Previous close
DM	1.7338	1.7419
Yen	112.27	112.45
FF	5.896	5.921

Newsstand Prices

Bohemia	0.800	Din. Malta	25 c.
Cyprus	0.100	Nigeria	50.00
Denmark	14.00	Norway	15 N.Kr.
Finland	11 P.A.	Ormen	1,000
Gibraltar	0.085	Qatar	8.00
Great Britain	0.085	Rep. Ireland	0.100
India	0.008	Saudi Arabia	9.00
Japan	100.00	South Africa	1.50
Kuwait	0.008	U.A.E.	8.50
U.S.	1.00	U.S. Mail	1.00

Swiss Put More Heat On France To Explain

ZURICH — Switzerland stepped up diplomatic pressure on France on Wednesday to explain why it sent home two Iranians last month who were wanted in Switzerland for the murder of an Iranian dissident.

The government said in a statement that it had "charged the Foreign Ministry to request from the French government an explanation for its decision not to proceed with the planned extradition."

The two Iranians are wanted for the 1990 murder in Geneva of an Iranian dissident, Kazem Rajavi, brother of Massoud Rajavi, head of Iran's Iraqi-based Mujahidin Khalq guerrilla movement.

Hours before the Swiss statement, the French interior minister, Charles Pasqua, bluntly rejected a U.S. request for clarification.

"I have no explanation to give the Americans," Mr. Pasqua said in a radio interview. He added, referring to President Bill Clinton, "I am not an employee of Mr. Clinton."

Countering U.S. criticism, Mr. Pasqua said Washington had rejected a French protest over the presence in the United States of an unidentified leader of Algeria's banned fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front.

Mr. Pasqua repeated that France had acted out of national interest. "Some things cannot be said," he added, "in a few months, we shall see."

He again refused to elaborate, despite an opposition demand in parliament for an explanation.

The Swiss had sent France a sharp protest note at the end of December when it released the two Iranians, Moshen Sharif-Esfandiari and Ahmed Taheri, from prison and sent them back to Iran.

Switzerland says the decision broke the European extradition accord.

Balladur Climbs In French Survey

PARIS — The popularity of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur has risen to 60 percent, although an even larger share of French voters are unhappy with his conservative government, according to a poll released on Wednesday.

The survey, to be published Thursday in the weekly picture magazine Paris-Match, said Mr. Balladur's popularity had risen four points, from 56 percent last month. But 62 percent of French voters were dissatisfied with Balladur's conservative government, down from 65 percent in December. The survey did not explain the contradiction between the sour feelings toward the government and the continued support for Mr. Balladur.

The popularity of the Socialist president, François Mitterrand, climbed five points, to 49 percent.

Radio Pretoria's Outlaw Voice Challenges Change

By Bill Keller
New York Times Service

DONKERHOF, South Africa — Surrounded by two trenches, a fence topped with loops of razor wire, a four-foot wall of sand bags and a few men with guns, Johannes van der Walt cued an Olivia Newton-John record and prepared to read the news.

As usual here at Radio Pretoria, it was news from a parallel South Africa.

In this news, whites still stand tall, the voices of authority are the Afrikaner People's Front and the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement, an independent white homeland is almost reality, Nelson Mandela is a Communist stooge and elections scheduled for April may or may not take place.

On Monday, after four months of waiting, the government refused to renew Radio Pretoria's temporary license, making its broadcasters outlaws and setting the stage for a showdown almost everyone prefers to avoid.

Operators of the station vowed to continue broadcasting illegally, gambling that

the government of President Frederik W. de Klerk would not dare send the police to storm a station that has become a symbol to many whites of their beleaguered culture and diminishing power.

"It would be a disaster politically," said Pieter La Roux, who supervises security at the radio compound, on a fortified hilltop east of Pretoria.

Radio Pretoria has defied the government and remained on the air.

Although some of the station's more trigger-happy supporters speak with relish of an apocalyptic confrontation, the government seemed inclined to pass the issue to a new, independent broadcasting authority where the station's status could languish for months.

Broadcasting, which used to be a government monopoly, is in a state of flux. There are several hundred applications for licenses pending before the independent authority.

Since it went on the air Sept. 18, Radio Pretoria has extended its broadcasting day from 4 hours to 14, and has become a rallying point for those whites who are

unreconciled to the coming of majority rule.

From its high mast topped with the four-color flag of the 19th-century Afrikaner Republic of Transvaal, the station's FM signal reaches south to the white suburbs of Johannesburg and north into sparsely populated Afrikaner farm country.

On Radio Pretoria, the music is middle-of-the-road and the political outlook is right-of-the-pavement.

"I've heard 'White Christmas' on Radio Pretoria a number of times," said Chris Conradie, the station manager and one of a dozen founders. "I've never heard Michael Jackson. And never will. Not because of his color; because of his music."

Most of the broadcasters are former employees of South African Broadcasting Corp., which is regarded here as being part of the national stampede into decadence and communism.

Mr. Conradie says his listeners pine for the days when South Africa closed its doors on Sunday, gambling was forbidden, and censorship kept out such tempta-

tions as the new, heavily air-brushed South African edition of Playboy magazine.

"Everybody now is falling to pieces," he said. "We are trying to call people back to God, and then to make them proud to be Afrikaners again."

The station declares itself nonpartisan, but it has close ties to the Afrikaner People's Front, an alliance of rightist groups. The outlook broadcast here is ardently Protestant, fiercely anti-communist, and ultranationalist.

No one knows how many whites listen to the station, but those who do seem to be avid.

A month ago, when word reached the hilltop that the state might be planning a raid, Mr. La Roux went on the air to summon support. Within a few hours, he said, a few thousand defenders, armed men with their families, had converged on the compound, planning to throw themselves before an assault that never came.

"This is by no means a fort, and we are not preparing for war," he said. "We realize that in a conventional attack they could blast the tower to ribbons."



Belgrade residents forming a long line for a streetcar, as shortages of fuel and spare parts have forced cutbacks in public transportation.

UN to Study NATO Plan For Bosnia

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GENEVA — The United Nations secretary-general, Boutros Boutros Ghali, ordered a preliminary study on Wednesday of NATO's threat of air strikes against Bosnian Serbs to reopen the Tuzla airport and relieve trapped UN troops, a spokeswoman said.

Mr. Boutros Ghali has asked his special representative in the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, to examine the feasibility of such air strikes and report to a high-level meeting of UN officials in Geneva on Monday, the spokeswoman added.

Leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization asked the United Nations on Tuesday to draw up urgent plans to ensure that 300 Canadian peacekeepers could leave the eastern enclave of Srebrenica, besieged by Bosnian Serbs. They also asked for UN advice on opening the Tuzla airport for humanitarian relief purposes.

President Bill Clinton said the Western military alliance was considering using air power in both places.

"The secretary-general has asked to undertake a preliminary study in response to the declaration of the heads of states and governments who participated in the NATO summit," the UN spokeswoman, Therese Gastaut, said in Geneva, where Mr. Boutros Ghali arrived on Wednesday.

She said Mr. Boutros Ghali would meet on Monday with Mr. Akashi and the UN mediator, Thorvald Stoltenberg, as well as Manick Gouding, UN undersecretary-general for political affairs, to discuss the UN feasibility study.

In Sarajevo, relief flights resumed Wednesday with officials lifting the latest suspension, forced by a rocket that hit the runway.

"The Sarajevo airlift is absolutely essential for the city," said a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The spokesman, Kris Janowski, warned that agency warehouses in Sarajevo were empty.

Underlining the desperate supply situation, Sarajevo radio reported that flour had run out at the city bakery. The UN refugee agency said that 70 tons of flour were scheduled for arrival by air during the day on Wednesday.

The airport remained free of attack by afternoon. But fighting was reported in some other city sections, where no more than several hundred meters separate Bosnian Serbs and Muslim-led government troops.

Bosnian radio reported shelling and small-arms fire in several western suburbs and said Serbian gunners ringing the city had concentrated on parts of the Old Town. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Serbs and government troops also clashed on several eastern Bosnian fronts and fierce fighting was reported at Okovo, northeast of Sarajevo.

New fighting also was reported Wednesday in central Bosnia between Bosnian Croats and government troops, after fruitless negotiations between the presidents of Bosnia and Croatia on ending the warfare there.

Much of the government push in central Bosnia has been on Vitez, 50 kilometers (30 miles) northwest of Sarajevo.

(Reuters, AP)

UN Chief and General Feud on Air Strikes

By Julia Preston
Washington Post Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Severe tensions have arisen between Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali and the commander of UN forces in the Balkans, General Jean Cot of France, who has repeatedly ignored or challenged the authority of his civilian superiors at UN headquarters, according to diplomats here.

General Cot's defiance has left senior UN officials uncertain that they have full control of him, and it has significantly contributed to Mr.

Boutros Ghali's reluctance to authorize the North Atlantic Treaty Organization powers to launch air strikes in Bosnia, the diplomats said.

On Tuesday in Brussels, NATO leaders issued a new threat to use power to support UN forces delivering humanitarian aid in Bosnia.

According to Security Council resolutions, the final approval for the strikes must be given by Mr. Boutros Ghali. He has said he will base his decision on the advice of UN officials in Bosnia, including General Cot.

"I have received no request for the use of air power" from UN officials in Bosnia, Mr. Boutros Ghali said in Paris. "The day I receive such a request, and if I have the support of UN officials who believe it is urgent to use air power, I will be the first to back it up."

Up to now, however, the secretary-general has been hesitant to recommend strikes out of concern that lightly armed UN peacekeepers would face retaliation by more powerful Serbian forces.

In the background is the struggle between General Cot, who has been commander of the 27,000 UN troops in the Balkans since July, and Mr. Boutros Ghali.

The United Nations has repeatedly faced difficulties in imposing its authority over commanders from large and sophisticated armies in its recent peacekeeping operations. In Somalia, it secured the withdrawal of Brigadier General Bruno Loi of Italy after he followed instructions from Rome to avoid fighting with Somali militiamen instead of obeying combat orders from the UN force commander.

Last winter, Lieutenant General Philippe Morillon of France, then the commander of UN troops in Bosnia, was moved by the plight of Bosnia's civilians and led a crusade to the enclave of Srebrenica, against the advice of UN officials.

Last week, Mr. Boutros Ghali dispatched a cable to General Cot, saying his actions were "inappropriate" and "incompatible" with his position. The message was de-

scribed by diplomats as by far the strongest reprimand ever sent to a UN commander.

The cable was prompted by General Cot's saying in a newspaper interview last week that he had repeatedly asked Mr. Boutros Ghali to delegate to him the authority to call in air strikes. General Cot said the secretary-general refused.

General Cot also told Yasushi Akashi, the top civilian UN official in the Balkans, that he would lobby governments with troops in Bosnia to press Mr. Boutros Ghali to change his mind. The general tried to open a channel of communications directly to the Security Council, circumventing the secretary-general, to press his case, diplomats said.

Mr. Boutros Ghali did not consider yielding his decision-making power, UN officials have said, because governments with troops on the ground, and agencies and other UN civilians have to be consulted before the secretary-general can make a move that could thrust UN forces into a shooting war.

U.S. Backs Larger UN Council

By Paul Lewis
New York Times Service

BONN — Opening consultations on its decision to support Germany and Japan as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the Clinton administration said Wednesday that it believed a larger council would have greater moral authority in the world and make the United Nations more effective.

The chief U.S. representative at the United Nations, Madeleine K. Albright, told Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and other officials here that although the United States wanted permanent seats for Germany and Japan, it believed this would be difficult to achieve without giving some form of permanent membership to the most populous developing countries as well.

Ms. Albright broke off a tour of

Eastern Europe to participate in the consultations.

Enlarging the Security Council was one of the most hotly debated issues at last year's UN General Assembly session, which set up a working group to report on the issue later this year.

Developing countries and many smaller industrial nations complained that the council's present composition was anachronistic. The five World War II victors — Britain, France, the United States, Russia and China — have permanent membership on the Council and a veto over its decisions.

But there was little agreement on how to alter Council membership, with some countries wanting to abolish permanent seats and votes altogether, while others wanted to increase the number of permanent members.

The Council's prestige and au-

thority, meanwhile, has been damaged by its inability to end the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Clinton administration's abrupt decision to pull its forces out of Somalia and the United Nations' growing difficulty in finding money and troops for new peacekeeping operations.

"During the 1992 election campaign that brought him to power, Bill Clinton said Germany and Japan should be given permanent Security Council seats in recognition of their economic strength."

Subsequently, Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher and Mrs. Albright have said that the administration stands by that view.

A senior Clinton administration official said the United States aspired to bring about the biggest developing countries by adding Third World seats.

WORLD BRIEFS

Salinas Calls a Cease-Fire in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (WP) — President Carlos Salinas de Gortari ordered the army to begin a unilateral cease-fire Wednesday after 11 days of combat against insurgents in southern Mexico, honoring one of five major demands the rebels issued this week as terms for negotiating peace.

Mr. Salinas announced the truce, combined with an offer of amnesty for rebels who put down their arms, as the government's peace commissioner, Manuel Camacho Solis, arrived in the southern state of Chiapas in hopes of arranging formal contacts with leaders of the rebel group, the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

The president has been harshly criticized, both at home and abroad, for sending thousands of troops and heavy weaponry to the region and allowing military aircraft to rocket civilian areas where rebels allegedly were circulating. The Zapatistas, who consist mainly of Mayan Indian peasants, began their offensive on Jan. 1 by seizing several towns and villages in southeastern Chiapas.

Ex-British Aide Faults Iraq Inquiry

LONDON (Reuters) — The former foreign secretary, Geoffrey Howe, attacked Britain's arms-for-Iraq inquiry on Wednesday for mistreating witnesses and accused the inquiry's leader of being "detective, inquisitor, advocate and judge."

Lord Howe, a key figure in the scandal, warned Lord Justice Scott that his interrogation methods might invalidate the inquiry, which is investigating whether British ministers knowingly broke guidelines governing arms sales to Iraq before the Persian Gulf War.

Lord Howe accused Lord Scott of breaking government guidelines on inquiries by not allowing witnesses the right of reply, legal representation or the right of cross-examination. Lord Scott called Lord Howe's complaints a "black from the blue," and said he had fully safeguarded the interests of witnesses while ensuring the inquiry's efficiency.

Egypt Arrests 120 in Crackdown

CAIRO (Reuters) — Egyptian security forces arrested 120 men on Wednesday as part of a crackdown on those suspected of violence against public figures and tourists.

Determined to crush a rising tide of Muslim militant violence, the police have detained a total of 420 suspects in the last two weeks and seized large caches of arms, security forces said. Of those arrested, 35 were wanted militants or escapees.

More than 271 people have been killed and 668 wounded in political violence that began in 1992. Egypt has hanged 29 militants for attacks on tourists and officials.

President Rebuilding Berlin's Status

BERLIN (Reuters) — President Richard von Weizsäcker, trying to force the pace of the government's move to Berlin, invited envoys of 138 nations to the capital on Wednesday for his traditional New Year's reception.

The Bonn-based diplomats flew 600 kilometers (375 miles) to Berlin in a German Air Force jet. It was the first time a German president, who has held an annual New Year's reception in Bonn since 1950, held the gathering in Berlin. Parliament voted in 1991 to move the seat of government to Berlin, but many politicians, citing the high costs of the move, have since tried to delay or overturn the decision.

Mr. Weizsäcker, who this month moved his official residence from Bonn to Berlin, told the ambassadors that bringing the two halves of Germany together since unification was proving more difficult than expected. "But no one should believe that as a result we are turning our back on the world," he said.

Libya Still Only Suspect in Bombing

LONDON (AP) — There is no evidence that any country other than Libya was involved in the bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland in 1988, but the inquiry into the matter remains open, Prime Minister John Major said Wednesday.

Mr. Major was asked in the House of Commons about reports suggesting that Syria and Iran might have been involved in the bombing, which killed all 259 people on board the New York-bound flight and 11 people on the ground in Lockerbie, Scotland.

Britain and the United States have named two Libyans as suspects in the bombing, and the United Nations has imposed sanctions against Libya because it has refused to extradite the suspects.

Correction

Because of an editing error, an article from Brussels in Wednesday's edition on President Bill Clinton's campaign for higher environmental and labor standards in developing countries misidentified Sir Leon Brittan. He is the European Union's trade commissioner.

TRAVEL UPDATE

High-Tech Elevators for Eiffel Tower

PARIS (AP) — The Eiffel Tower is getting a lift into the 21st century as workers install a pair of new high-tech elevators to carry visitors to the tower's top two levels.

The new cabins, costing a total of 7 million francs (\$1.2 million), weigh four tons. They have been designed to withstand year-round wear and tear on the city's most popular tourist attraction. A second pair will be installed next year to complete the replacement.

Last year, 5.5 million people paid to visit the 320-meter (1,050-foot) tower and ride its four elevators for one of the best views in Paris. The elevators make 250 trips per day.

More than 300 commemorative events are scheduled in Normandy this year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings and the battle of Normandy, organizers said Wednesday. Grandstands will be erected to seat 45,000 people for the main events, including a bombing ceremony at Omaha Beach and an evening spectacle at Caen. (AP)

South Korea and China are expected to agree soon on direct flights between their capitals, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said. (AP)

Rough seas were hampering workers' efforts to empty a barge spilling oil onto beaches in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The crippled barge, which ran into a coral reef after a towline snapped, has already spilled 750,000 gallons of heating oil onto the once-pristine beaches. (AP)

CHINA: Good Terms With France

Continued from Page 1

"The Chinese side reaffirms that arms sales of any type to Taiwan will bring harm to China's sovereignty, security and reunification," the statement said.

The United States announced in 1992 that it would sell F-16 fighters to Taiwan. Although there has been no significant Chinese reaction, the government has said it reserves the right to retaliate.

Mr. Balladur has made the restoration of good relations with China a priority since taking office last March.

The agreement came one day after it was disclosed in Washington that a draft report by the U.S. State Department has found little progress on human rights in China.

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THE AMERICAS / A MEASURE OF JUSTICE

In Peru, a Case That Won't Stay Buried Provides Test of Civilian Power

By James Brooke
New York Times Staff Writer

LIMA — Hunting for the light of dawn exposed the night of a Peruvian Army firing range, a group of hooded gunmen lined up nine students and a professor kidnapped hours earlier from dormitories at a teachers' college here. In the final minutes of that night 18 months ago, all 10 were shot in the head.

Returning two days later to study the site in daylight, the gunmen found a foot protruding from the desert sand and hastened to cover up traces of the killing, according to participants quoted in press accounts here.

Similarly, the killings on July 18, 1992, of 10 people from La Cantuta University with no apparent military background and soldiers have been charged with kidnapping and killing the professor and students. In the belief that they were responsible for car bombings carried out by the Shining Path guerrilla movement.

The army, however, is opposed to trying the accused men in open civilian court, and there is doubt that any found guilty would be punished harshly.

Today, the killings stand as a test case of new civilian institutions that replaced

the courts and Congress closed by President Alberto Fujimori in April 1992.

The United States has warned that \$100 million in economic aid will not be disbursed unless those who carried out the Cantuta killings and other major abuses of human rights are punished.

"La Cantuta is shaping up to be the test case that will make or break aid to Peru," said Juan E. Mendez, executive director of Americas Watch, the New York-based human-rights organization.

U.S. concerns about human-rights abuses in Peru is to be conveyed later this month, when Alexander F. Watson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and several American congressmen are due to come here in the highest level U.S. visit since Mr. Fujimori seized expanded powers.

Most U.S. aid was frozen after Mr. Fujimori's action, but Peru has recently suspended its bid to win the money back, arguing that the human-rights situation is improving. Last year, for example, the number of forced disappearances dropped to about 75, down from an average of 300 a year over the previous decade.

Despite the improvements, a satisfac-

tory resolution of the Cantuta case is regarded in Washington as an essential precondition for aid.

The army here thinks differently. Last April, the army commander in chief, General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, thought he could silence an investigation by the Peruvian Congress by sending tanks rumbling through streets of Lima.

But in fits and starts, investigations launched on, fed by crusading magazine journalists, relatives of the students, opposition members of Congress, pressure from the United States and a dissident faction within the army.

In a major civilian challenge to army privilege, two generals and six officers are under barracks arrest and are facing trials for the Cantuta killings. Two others who have been charged have not been detained.

In the last 12 years of army warfare against the Shining Path, 3,033 guerrillas suspects were detained and secretly killed by security forces, human-rights groups assert. In the same period, the army conducted two courts-martials for unjustified killings.

Although the suspects in the Cantuta case reportedly believed that they were

kidnapping members of a Shining Path bomb squad, guerrilla activities by those killed has never been proved.

"The soldiers think they are the masters of the world, that they can do whatever they want with poor people," said

'The soldiers think they are the masters of the world.'

Rayda Condor Saes, whose oldest son was one of nine students killed in July 1992.

Rayda Condor Saes, whose oldest son, Armando Amaro Condor, was one of the students killed. "When I went to the barracks, they laughed in my face and said that my son had probably run off with some woman. Until his keys were found, I always thought that I would find him alive."

A turning point came last summer when investigators sifting through human remains at a common grave found a

set of keys. The keys opened locks at Armando Amaro's school locker and at his mother's house in Lima. That grave, and another at the army firing range, were discovered after members of a dissident army faction called Sleeping Lion sent hand-drawn maps pinpointing two burial sites to Ricardo Uceda Pérez, editor of the Lima newsweekly Si.

The government never responded to U.S. offers of forensic analysis. Instead, officials shipped remains to Britain for identification through genetic mapping. Now the government contends it does not have the money to pay for the necessary tests.

"From the moment these 10 people vanished, the government has done its best to keep the truth from public view," Americas Watch wrote in a report in September.

According to the report, witnesses, including the third-ranking general in the Peruvian Army, have been harassed, threatened and forced into exile. Several have been arrested. General Hermoza has refused to allow any of his subordinates to testify in civilian court or before congressional investigators. The attorney general's office dragged its feet, leav-

ing most investigative work to journalists. Police officials have branded investigative journalists as terrorist dupes.

But with the keys, the maps and clothing identifications by relatives, a civilian prosecutor, Victor Cubas Villanueva, decided that he had enough evidence, and on Dec. 16 he charged 10 officers and soldiers with kidnapping and murder.

The tenacity of some Peruvians in pursuing the case is explained in part by the easing of a war psychosis that only a few months ago gripped the capital.

"Under the stress of the bombs, the population demanded that terrorism be wiped out at any price," Fernando Rospiogliosi wrote recently in *Caretas* magazine, recalling the panic atmosphere caused by a Shining Path bombing campaign in the summer of 1992. "To kidnap and murder 10 university people from a study center where it was known that there was Shining Path activity only made a handful of people nervous."

But with much of the leadership of Shining Path in jail and with tension easing, Peruvians seem increasingly to favor curbing the army's "dirty war" tactics.

With newsmagazines publishing photographs of the ring leaders of an army death squad suspected of carrying out the Cantuta killings, the government has been forced to dismantle the 30-man unit, which was formed three years ago to combat Shining Path activity in Lima.

Named the Colina Group after an army war hero, the group is suspected of having carried out a string of other killings around Lima in the last two years, including the killing of 15 people attending a barbecue in central Lima and the disappearance of a left-wing radio journalist, Pedro Yauri Bustamante. The 15 were suspected of attending a Shining Path fund-raiser, but apparently were all innocent.

In a final attempt at damage control, the military is reportedly pressing the Supreme Court to rule later this month that the Cantuta case should be tried in a military court instead of a civilian one. In Peru, military court proceedings are closed to civilian observers.

"It's a test of how autonomous civilian power really is in Peru," said Enrique Bernaldes Ballesteros, a former congressman who runs a political research institute in Lima.

★ POLITICAL VOTES ★

High Numbers for Clinton Despite Allegations

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton continues to draw high approval ratings in spite of allegations about his private life and his financial affairs, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News Poll.

But the poll showed that three in five Americans say a special prosecutor should be named to investigate Mr. Clinton's financial dealings when he was governor of Arkansas.

The poll showed that 59 percent of those surveyed said they approved of the job Mr. Clinton is doing as president, compared with 36 percent who disapproved. The poll is based on a national random sample of 1,038 adults interviewed by telephone Jan. 5-9. Margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

A mid-December Post-ABC poll put his favorable-unfavorable rating at 58 to 40 percent. The December poll was completed shortly before allegations by two Arkansas state troopers that they had helped facilitate extramarital affairs for Mr. Clinton and before the White House came under increasing pressure to release more information about the involvement by Mr. Clinton and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, in an Arkansas real estate deal.

Asked whether the Justice Department should carry out its investigation of Mr. Clinton's Arkansas dealings, or whether Attorney General Janet Reno should appoint a special prosecutor to look into the matter, 61 percent said they favored a special prosecutor.

Sixty percent of respondents said they believed Mr. Clinton has the honesty and integrity to serve effectively as president. The last time that question was asked in a Post-ABC poll, shortly before his inauguration, 74 percent said he did. (WP)

Back to an Old Approach in the War on Drugs

WASHINGTON — Efforts to stop the flow of narcotics into the United States have failed and will largely be scrapped in favor of a new campaign to persuade producing countries to shut off the flow and disrupt international drug trafficking syndicates, according to Timothy E. Wirth, the top State Department official involved with drug policy.

Despite years of U.S. efforts to intercept narcotics shipments before they reach this country, "We have to be realistic about the fact that we're going to have cocaine and heroin on the streets of the United States," Mr. Wirth said. He said that rather than focusing on interdiction, U.S. efforts would concentrate on eradicating drug-growing crops in producing countries and discouraging Americans from using drugs.

In effect, the administration is moving away from the use of military assets to combat the drug trade. But the administration's new program appears to represent a return to past programs that failed because the cultivation of drug-producing crops is ingrained in some countries and because drug money has become a major lubricant of some foreign economies. (WP)

Aspin to Unveil Women-in-Combat Policy

WASHINGTON — After earlier rejecting a proposal that he found too restrictive, Defense Secretary Les Aspin has approved a new general policy that will allow women to serve in some ground units during combat. A Pentagon spokeswoman, Kathleen deLaski, said the new policy would be announced later this week, coming just before Mr. Aspin is scheduled to resign from his post this month.

Ms. deLaski declined to discuss specifics of the new policy, but cautioned that women would not be permitted to serve in all areas of combat action, such as hand-to-hand fighting. Women are still going to be excluded from direct ground combat, she said. "So what you need is a definition of what is direct ground combat." (LAT)

Quote / Unquote

Russell Feingold of Wisconsin, one of nine Democratic senators calling for a special prosecutor to investigate the president's ties with a now-failed savings and loan when Mr. Clinton was governor of Arkansas: "I do not believe it serves the interests or the interests of the nation to have any sort of shadow or questions about whether an unbiased investigation has been conducted." (WP)

Away From Politics

- A new prime number has been discovered by researchers using a supercomputer, but with 238,716 digits it might be hard for the average math whiz to roll off the tongue. A prime number can be divided only by itself or one to produce a whole number. Examples include 2, 3, 5, 7 and 11. The *Journal of Science* said the previous record was 227,832 digits.
- A Swiss tourist said he had jumped into Biscayne Bay to escape robbers armed with a knife on a cruise ship near Miami. The tourist, Antonio Basini, was struck with the knife's blunt side and suffered hypothermia.
- A needle exchange program in San Francisco, illegal but operating with the tacit approval of police, is highly effective in reducing risky behavior among drug addicts and does not promote drug abuse, said a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.
- Followers of David Koresh were "arming an army," said a prosecutor in an opening statement for the trial in San Antonio, Texas, of 11 cultists charged with murdering four federal agents in a gun battle. "David Koresh told these people his name was death," said the prosecutor, Ray Jahn. (AP, Reuters, AP, LAT)

PROBE: White House Asks for Independent Inquiry on Clinton Finances

Continued from Page 1

similar issues in Washington, the reluctance of the White House to make public the Clintons' personal files on Whitewater seemed to embolden critics. Those files are being turned over to the Justice Department under a subpoena that keeps them closed to the press and the public.

In seeking the select committee, whose formation would require Democratic assent, Mr. Dole said he wanted to ease "the perception of a whitewash."

He also contended that Attorney General Janet Reno, who has the authority to appoint an independent investigator, was not acting independently of the White House as he considered her options and that Mr. Clinton was "calling the shots" from Europe.

"If the president and first lady have done nothing wrong, as they have said, they have nothing to hide," Mr. Dole said.

At the heart of the Clinton matter is the Morgan Guaranty Savings & Loan in Arkansas, which failed in the late 1980s and whose depositors required \$50 million in federal deposit insurance payments. Questions have been raised about the possibility that bank funds were improperly diverted, through Mr. McDougal, to the Clinton campaign in order to finance campaign debts. Other questions focus on whether Arkansas state officials, appointed by Mr. Clinton, sought to keep the institution open as its losses went sour.

Mr. McDougal, his wife, Susan, and the Clintons were partners in Whitewater, a now-defunct real estate venture that sought to develop



President Clinton standing in with a jazz combo at a club in Prague. His saxophone was a gift from the Czech president, Vaclav Havel.

Clinton in Prague: A Major Production

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Staff Writer

PRAGUE — The cast included Vaclav Havel, the playwright, and Bill Clinton, the born political ham, and their stroll across the 14th-century Charles Bridge was more than just another moment of diplomatic theater.

Under orders from Morty Engelberg, the Hollywood producer in charge of planning Mr. Clinton's most important public moments, the Gothic span had been transformed into a stage, with artists and souvenir sellers banished to make room for the actors.

Until Mr. Clinton's arrival, no vehicle had crossed the bridge since it was turned into a pedestrian walkway in 1958, local officials said, and neither German tanks in World War II nor Soviet tanks that came to suppress the liberalization movement of 1968 had dared to cross the much-loved medieval structure.

But the White House sacrificed that tradition to the twin goals of publicity and security. While the two leaders strolled on foot, they were preceded over the rough cobblestones by a truckload of photographers and trailed by Mr. Clinton's limousine with its District of Columbia plates.

The promenade on Tuesday night was intended as a symbol of renewed partnership between West and East, and as Mr. Clinton and Mr. Havel paused to admire some of the 30 statues on the bridge, and gazed at the Vltava

River and the capital's medieval spires, theirs seemed a powerful personal drama.

But that was not for any lack of planning, not least by Mr. Engelberg, who made a reputation first by producing "Smoochy and the Bandit" and then Mr. Clinton's campaign buscapades.

Across the full length of the 300-yard-long bridge, each statue had been illuminated with two special spotlights. Duct tape was stuck on the paving blocks where the two leaders were to pose for photographs.

Before coming to Europe, Mr. Clinton told his aides that he was determined that his trip have an emotional cast, and that he was eager for human contact. Away from the bridge, Mr. Havel made sure that he got a good dose of that on Tuesday night, as the two drank beer and ate breaded veal in a historic pub.

They even wandered on for a taste of Prague's night life at the smoky Reduta jazz club, where the Czech president had invited several dozen of his artistically inclined friends, and where Mr. Clinton borrowed a saxophone to play two of his favorites, "Summertime" and "My Funny Valentine."

When a loud popping sound rang out in the street as Mr. Clinton was leaving the club, the president seemed only a little tense even when his Secret Service detail backed his limousine onto the sidewalk and pulled out a bulletproof vest in case he should need it. The White House said later that agents believed the noise had been a firecracker.

Reporters who did their best to trail Mr. Clinton through the evening said he seemed determined to make sure that everyone had a good time. "Get some food for these people," he encouraged one Czech waiter after a reunion with an elderly couple he had met in a visit to the capital 24 years ago.

"When I was coming here, I wanted to walk across the bridge and I wanted to see you," Mr. Clinton said as he kissed the woman, Jirina Kopold, on both cheeks.

Among the Czechs who flocked to the narrow Old Town streets to catch a glimpse of the American leader, there were shrieks and cheers and calls for "Beel CLIN-ton" to "come here."

The president often obliged, sometimes to find himself nearly mobbed by young men and women who pressed relentlessly against police barriers.

But there has always more than a hint of calculation in Mr. Clinton's personal style. Aboard Air Force One on Tuesday, aides carried a videotape of a Monday night ABC News program so that they could plan his performance on the first of a series of programs presenting a kind of nightly cinema verite of traveling diplomacy.

In a bus from the airport to the bridge, news photographers were shown photos depicting the walk across the bridge as it would look from Mr. Clinton's eyes as well as their own, so that they could better plan their shots.

CONDEMNED: For Texas Death Row Inmates, There's Life on the Job

Continued from Page 1

less tense for prison guards, too.

"It's been heading uphill from Day 1," said the factory manager, Charles Duff, a prison worker. "We produce top-of-the-line goods."

Of the 373 men on death row at Huntsville, the turnover rate is increasing as more arrive and more are dispatched. The factory has a double shift of up to 120 workers. Fourteen inmates are scheduled for execution this month, including several whose jobs in the factory have already been snapped up by men on a long waiting list.

The inmates make dozens of items — sheets, diapers, tote bags and prison guard uniforms. All sporting a TCI label for Texas Corrections Industries and sold to other state agencies.

And though the inmates get none of the profits, they are accorded higher valued privileges, including larger cells, freedom to visit with nearby friends on death row after work, and, most important, freedom from being manacled in the sight of their families in grim restriction cages on visiting days.

The rest of the death row is confined in "lockdown" in their cells except for three hours a day.

To Lester Bower, a 46-year-old condemned prisoner and the factory bookkeeper, "It's kind of a paradox" how some of society's most dreaded people find special camaraderie in the death row factory.

"If a condemned man shows he can exist quite well without posing a danger to his peers, what's the real reason for executing him?"

Mr. Bower's friend and fellow factory worker, James Vanderbilt, a former police officer convicted of murder in the course of a kidnapping, is the state's longest surviving death row inmate: 18 years and counting in an involved legal process. He is respected for legal expertise and endurance by newer inmates who, sentenced under recent laws toughened to speed appeals, since they anticipate less life.

"After you've been here a certain amount of time, actually getting executed is a kind of parole," Mr.

Vanderbilt said. "It becomes harder in your mind for a friend to die than it is for you to die. I know I can be ready, but I can't know about my friend even though we talk about it."

A garment worker typically checks out of the factory roster a month before his execution date for final processing. If a court stay arises, he can come back on line.

"There've been guys coming back with their arms all bruised from the execution catheters, getting a stay two hours before it's over," Mr. Williamson said, referring to the lethal injection process. "It's scary, wondering whether it's going to be me they lay there like a lamb on that table next time."

The Business Lunch Goes on a Crash Diet

Firms Tighten Their Belts As Tax Reduction Is Reduced

By Clifford J. Levy
New York Times Staff Writer

NEW YORK — The American business lunch once seemed so blithely simple. Shepherd some clients to a nice restaurant, order a steak and a few highballs, make a couple of deals, gossip over the cheesecake. Hand a charge card to the waiter after barely glancing at the check.

But first came warnings about cholesterol and alcohol and sagging productivity, and now — as if the conspiracy to destroy this venerable perk were not complete — the government has taken another step in its long campaign to reduce the tax deduction for business meals and entertainment.

The change, which took effect on Jan. 1, is rippling through the country, ushering in a new era of austerity for some companies in advertising, publishing and other industries that like to do their brainstorming over white tablecloths. It is also worrying many restaurateurs who had hoped that they were turning the corner after a long slump.

"This will finish off fine dining in America," said Stephen E. Elmont, the owner of Mirabelle, a restaurant in Boston, and president of the National Restaurant Association. "We are under siege."

Congress lowered the deduction for business meals and entertainment from 80 percent to 50 percent last year as part of President Bill Clinton's deficit-reduction package. It estimated that the move would raise \$50.3 billion from 1994 to 1998.

Will the new rules wipe out a corporate culture that has flourished for decades? Probably not, but they seem to be chipping away at a practice that some executives always considered a kind of inalienable right.

So it is no surprise that some companies are complaining that the public does not grasp the value of these meals, particularly in an age when offices are so chockablock with phones, computers, faxes, and other gadgetry that face-to-face contact with co-workers and clients is increasingly rare.

In big cities, many companies are issuing policies after talking with consultants like American Express Travel Related Services, which in recent months has held several well-attended seminars on the tax changes. A survey of 25 travel managers by Corporate Travel magazine found that 60 percent would likely write new guidelines for their companies, possibly requiring itemized receipts on business meals to cut waste.

Grey Advertising, one of the largest agencies in the country, is sending a memo to its workers strongly urging them to cut back on business meals, eat at cheaper restaurants and invite more clients to its corporate dining rooms. Grey

has more than 2,000 employees in New York.

"These meals do provide significant benefits, because often there is much more of an intimate environment," said Edward Meyer, Grey's chairman and chief executive. "But this is a business that spends too much of its life in restaurants."

Although he acknowledged that his more than three decades in advertising had been very kind to his palate, Mr. Meyer promised to set an example by staying in more and closely monitoring expense reports.

There is a reformist zeal that takes place after new legislation comes in," he said. "For six months, many people will pursue a policy of trying to curb excess dining in excessively priced restaurants. But thereafter, the effect tends to wane a little. People go back to their bad ways. It's very much like dieting."

Jack Avrett, the chairman of Avrett, Free & Ginsberg, another large advertising agency, said he was also asking employees to be more frugal, just as he did when the deduction dropped from 100 percent to 80 percent in 1986. "In the old days, 20 years ago, it was just a rule of thumb that you went out to lunch with clients every day," he said. "But that doesn't happen anymore because the business pressures have been changing. There has been evolution. It's better this way. We get more work done."

But such views were not echoed on Wall Street, which has posted record profits in recent months. Executives at several major brokerage houses seemed almost taken aback when asked about expense policies, as if making cuts would be sacrilegious. And the new rules will certainly have little impact on the wealthy.

"I just left the Four Seasons, and having lunch there were Barry Diller, Ron Perlmutter, Henry Kissinger, Sandy Weill from Primerica, Joni Evans, and that was just today's group," said Jerry Della Femina, the longtime *adman* who is president of the Jerry Inc. agency and has opened two restaurants in recent years.

"It's not going to affect them," he said. "It's going to affect the insurance salesperson. It's going to affect the poor Hispanic dishwasher who works for a major restaurant."

But even Paul Kovi, a part owner of the Four Seasons, said he feared the new rules would depress revenues. About 70 to 80 percent of the lunches at the Four Seasons are on expense accounts, Mr. Kovi said.

The National Restaurant Association said many of its 25,000 members were also responding by running promotions and reducing prices. The group estimated that the change would lead to a cut of more than 165,000 jobs nationally in the restaurant industry.

On March 16th, the IHT will publish a Special Report on

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Dose of Caution From Clinton

With Eye on Home, He Goes Slow on Europe

By R.W. Apple Jr.

KIEV — Behind all foreign policy there lurks, or ought to lurk, careful political calculation. What the folks at home will not support, the traveling potentate cannot afford to promise.

So it has been with President Bill Clinton this week, on his maiden voyage to Europe as the leader of the Atlantic alliance. Having seen how quickly American opinion turned sour when the body of a U.S. serviceman was dragged through the streets of Mogadishu, Somalia, to be duly photographed and filmed, he is reluctant to make small commitments — witness the turning back of an American troop ship bound for Haiti — let alone big, dangerous ones.

Mr. Clinton therefore made no bold move on Bosnia. He issued no ultimatum to the combatants — do this or we will do that. Instead, he and the allies temporized.

They threatened yet again, as they did to no great effect last August, to use air strikes at Sarajevo, but only under certain conditions and not very soon at that. They added Tuzla and Srebrenica to the possible target list, but only pending yet another study of feasibility and suitability.

Mr. Clinton resisted, likewise, pressures from the East Europeans for full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, obliging them to accept the Partnership for Peace, a little-brother status that they did not much like.

One reason is the sensitivity of the Russians. For the moment, at least, Mr. Clinton has given a much higher priority to avoiding offense to the frail forces of reform in Moscow than to strengthening ties to the once-oppressed peoples of the former satellite states who once oc-

cupied such a special place in Washington's heart. That reflects the influence of Strobe Talbott, the Russian expert and State Department official who has come to dominate the administration's strategic thinking on Europe.

But another reason is what membership in NATO means. It is, at bottom, a military alliance, and its members agree to come to the aid of each other if attacked. Expansion would mean the United States

NEWS ANALYSIS

was fully committed to use its troops to defend Poland or the Czech Republic if they were attacked.

Mr. Clinton was elected by a country eager to focus on its own problems, not those of the rest of the world, and he has done little to urge it to look abroad, except in terms of economic self-interest.

Even if the will were there, the means are not. The 100,000 American troops Mr. Clinton promised this week to leave in Europe, no matter what, would certainly not suffice to halt any serious manifestation of Russian expansionism.

"The most effective thing for us," an American official said, "is to try to protect Eastern Europe by encouraging anti-imperialist, democratic tendencies in Russia. The problem is that the United States, or any other outside power, has only very limited influence over events in Russia."

But this is a president who likes to have things both ways. So having denied them what they sought, he met in Prague with four East European leaders, led by Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic and Lech Walesa of Poland, and came close — much closer than some of his West European partners would like

— to telling them, "Just be patient, and you'll get what you want."

On Tuesday, Jiri Dienstbier, the former Czech foreign minister, said in a newspaper interview, "We must not permit the Partnership to remain a sedative or a waiting room in which to await how things turn out in Russia."

As if in direct reply, Mr. Clinton said after his round of meetings Wednesday: "While the Partnership is not NATO membership, neither is it a permanent holding room. The question is no longer whether NATO will take on new members but when and how."

But when will the right moment come?

If the American people are not ready to defend Eastern Europe now, when will they be? Surely not until Mr. Clinton or some other president makes a much stronger case that the vital interests of America are at stake.

If Russia is at all costs not to be provoked, then membership for the Czechs and the others will have to be delayed until Russia has become so stable that even if angered, it would pose no threat to its neighbors. Russian history does not encourage the hope that that will happen any day soon.

As Mr. Clinton conceded, "there are always concerns that in the future the darker past might be recreated."

In a way, it already has been, in Bosnia. The failure of the alliance to halt the genocidal war there, in another East European country to which NATO guarantees do not apply, cannot be encouraging to Poland and Hungary and the Czech Republic as they contemplate what would happen if they found themselves trapped between East and West.

UKRAINE:

Nuclear Accord

Continued from Page 1

over the issue of whether they are to be a nuclear power or not. That division is reflected in parliamentary statements that have emerged in opposition since the agreement was announced.

The Clinton administration is holding firm to its contention that it will not reveal some parts of the agreement, particularly the exact sequence of how the warheads will be removed and how long the process will take. Nor will it say what incentives the Ukrainians have been promised by the United States. "It is our position that some elements of the agreement will remain confidential," a senior official said. He said the agreement fixes no timetable to the confidential elements and they could be never publicly released.

Mr. Clinton cited security language built into the agreement that is meant to protect against any potential Russian expansionism and invited Ukraine to join the new North Atlantic Treaty Organization plan for military cooperation with former East Bloc countries.

Mr. Kravchuk, who once called the weapons part of Ukraine's "material wealth," has agreed to give it up in return for financial compensation and guarantees from Russia and the United States that its borders are permanent.

The trip to Kiev came after Mr. Clinton won qualified endorsement from four East European leaders for his proposal, approved by NATO, to extend military contacts eastward without granting former Soviet-occupied countries the security guarantees that full NATO partnership includes.

U.S. Details Conditions For Aid to Russians

By Thomas L. Friedman

New York Times Service

MOSCOW — Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen told Russian leaders Wednesday that the United States was prepared to help speed delivery of Western aid, but only after it saw credible signs that Russia was restructuring its budget to phase out money-losing industries, lower inflation and better assist the unemployed.

The mantra for President Bill Clinton's visit, Treasury officials say, was: "More Russian reform in return for more Western money more quickly."

That approach is in marked contrast to the initial administration reaction to the recent Russian elections, when both Vice President Al Gore and the Russian affairs coordinator, Strobe Talbott, suggested easing Western conditions for reform to defuse opposition to President Boris N. Yeltsin's government. That view was strongly opposed by the Treasury Department and seems to have been firmly quashed.

Mr. Bentsen, who arrived in Moscow in advance of President Clinton, told reporters after his talks that the Russians had been making progress in taming inflation and spawning new private business.

The next few days and weeks, Mr. Bentsen said, would be "critical" in determining if Mr. Yeltsin's newly elected government and parliament are able and willing to carry out the sort of structural reforms that the United States and its allies want to see before they really turn on the aid spigot.

Mr. Yeltsin is still putting together his new government, and the newly elected Russian parliament is just getting under way. It is not clear whether the advocates of economic reform favored by Washington will be assigned leading roles in the new cabinet and, even more importantly, whether the Russian parliament will be ready to authorize the sort of major budget restructuring that the United States and its allies advocate. Treasury officials said.

"It is at a very formative stage," Mr. Bentsen said after discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Anatoli B. Chubais. "I would not try to predict who is going to be in what slot."

But he added, "I want to see some strong reformers left in that government."

The basic American position articulated by Mr. Bentsen to his Russian counterparts is this: The United States is ready to press its Western allies and the international lending institutions to come forward with money they have already promised Russia and not yet delivered if it sees "viable plans, and clear and credible statements of intent" that Russia is ready to restructure its budget, a senior Treasury official said.

What is new in this approach is that the United States will not insist on a waiting period to test implementation before money is delivered, but it does want to see commitments of intent.

That means, Mr. Bentsen said, that the Russian government must act to bring down its inflation rate further. The only way to do that is to stop printing money to cover the budget deficit. And the only way to do that is by halting the broad subsidies to huge state industries, such as the coal miners or tank factories or state farms that account for much of that deficit.



EARLY BIRDS GET LE SHUTTLE — Prospective passengers for the Eurotunnel service from Folkestone in England to Calais in France lining up Wednesday at a travel agency in London. The service is scheduled to start in early May.

EUROPEAN TOPICS

For France's Graffiti Artists, Days of Indulgence Are Over

France's graffiti artists will soon feel nostalgic for the 15 minutes of fame and indulgence — well, a bit more than that — that they enjoyed under the previous Socialist government.

The Socialist culture minister, Jack Lang, not only proclaimed the graffiti of French rappers to be art, but also sponsored two major exhibitions of their work.

But the new rightist government sees no redeeming qualities in the paintings that cost the city of Paris alone 140 million francs (\$34 million) each year in cleaning costs. A law set to take effect March 1 will increase penalties for graffiti art from the current maximum of a 30,000 franc fine and two years in prison to 500,000 francs and five years.

The city Metro system, where some of the worst damage was once done (including an attack on the Louvre Museum station that cost 500,000 francs to clean), has made progress in the fight against graffiti. Walls in

many subway stations have been treated with an easy-to-clean varnish, and graffiti is removed within 48 hours.

Yet in one of the exhibitions during the Lang years, the focus of the show was a Metro car, covered top to bottom with graffiti. In the front of the car was a television that broadcast tips on "how to do graffiti without getting caught."

Around Europe

Until 1990, young men in West Berlin were exempt from military service because of the city's special status. But with German reunification, and the departure of the four Allied powers from Berlin, the exemption was dropped. After a three-year administrative delay, the Defense Ministry finally announced last year the induction of a first group of 12,000 Berlin men, those born in 1969.

But there has been strong resistance from many inductees to the 12-month stint, reports the weekly Der Spiegel, and the police have increasingly had to be used to round up unwilling young men.

Some have challenged the state's legal right to rescind what had been a blanket protection through age 28, and one man, Frank Dietz, 24, has taken the matter to court. He contends that only 18-year-olds should be inducted, for older men have long since made

career and life decisions that are difficult to undo. Many of the 12,000 men affected have signed a protest petition being sent to the Bundestag.

About 1 million Germans will work in the environmental field by the end of this decade, according to a federal study. That will represent an increase of over 50 percent in less than 10 years.

The newest soccer commentator for the Italian television channel Rai Tre has the fervor and devotion of many a sports fan, but with a difference: She is a Franciscan nun. A Rai sports reporter had discovered Sister Paola in the stands of a Lazio Rome soccer match; she is a season-ticket holder. Their meeting, reports Die Welt, evolved into an invitation to do commentary, with results like these: "People, you just wouldn't believe how much I prayed to Our Mother Mary over this match..." or "Ah, it is half-time now. I must withdraw for a spiritual pause." But the sister's perspective on the game is not universally appreciated: she seems to see the Lazio team as a force for good and its opponents as vectors of evil. Fans of another team, AS Roma, have petitioned Rai to have Sister Paola confine her commentary to less worldly topics.

Brian Knowlton

Commander in the West Bank Is Killed in Helicopter Crash

By Joel Greenberg

New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — The chief Israeli army commander in the occupied West Bank was killed with three other officers early Wednesday when his helicopter crashed in heavy fog near his headquarters on the northern outskirts of Jerusalem.

The death of Major General Nechemia Tamari, 47, the highest ranking army officer killed in more than a decade, stunned military and government officials and prompted the air force commander to appoint a commission of inquiry.

An army spokesman ruled out sabotage. "There's no doubt that this was an accident," he said.

The spokesman said General Tamari's helicopter went down about 2 A.M. as it approached a fog-shrouded landing pad near his command headquarters. "There was very poor visibility and bad weather conditions," an army statement said.

General Tamari was returning

from the Bet Shean area in the Jordan Valley, where troops were chasing an infiltrator who had crossed into Israel from Jordan, the spokesman said, adding that the infiltrator was later caught.

Killed with the general were his personal assistant, Major Ofir Kaufman, and the two helicopter pilots.

General Tamari began his 28-year career as a paratrooper officer and had held several senior command posts, serving for the past 10 months as head of the army's Central Command, which includes the West Bank.

He had been increasingly preoccupied with stemming a rising tide of Jewish-Arab violence and heading off confrontations between soldiers and Jewish settlers in the aftermath of the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli accord in September.

While planning an expected Israeli pullout from the town of Jericho, General Tamari also spent hours calming tempers of settlers alarmed by the accord who have

retaliated violently for a spate of fatal Arab attacks.

Some government ministers and Palestinian leaders said the army, and by implication General Tamari, had been too lenient with settlers who have slain Palestinians, damaged Arab-owned property and blocked highways in response to killings by Palestinian militants.

But in remarks Wednesday to the parliament, Deputy Defense Minister Mordchai Gur praised General Tamari's handling of the settlers and said he had prevented a looming confrontation between Israeli soldiers and civilians. The general had been "open to the sensitive and delicate situations in which we are now living," Mr. Gur said.

"In recent months Nechemia was a symbol of this openness, of the readiness to preserve the unity of Israel and to avoid confrontations as much as humanly possible," Mr. Gur added. "Strong as he was, he tried with all his might to avoid using force."

Deal Nearer With PLO, Israel Says

The Associated Press

TABA, Egypt — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization are closer to agreement on autonomy, but there is still much work to be done on security issues, a top Israeli negotiator said at the end of talks Wednesday.

The head of the Israeli delegation, Major General Amnon Shahak, said the two sides were near a consensus on such topics as electricity and tourism.

He added that he hoped the talks would resume Monday and that negotiators would then be able to solve some of the more difficult security issues.

"On the security issues there is a lot to be done and hopefully next week we will continue, and we might sum up some of the subjects," General Shahak said.

The talks resumed Monday in the Red Sea resort of Taba after a two-week break.

But Israeli officials said little progress had been made on the issues that have delayed the start of an Israeli troop withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank towns of Jericho.

These include defining the size of the Jericho area, control of international border crossings connected to the autonomous zones, and defense of Jewish settlers living in or traveling through Palestinian areas. Nabil Shaath, the chief delegate for the PLO, said after Tuesday's session that such issues should not be allowed to become "agreement-breakers."

The accord calls for an equal Israeli and Palestinian presence at border crossings. Last week, the Palestinians reportedly demanded that the Israeli presence be inviolable. The Israelis said this went beyond understandings reached two weeks ago in Cairo.

At the same time, the Palestinians reportedly are not contesting the offer of a 57-square-kilometer (22-square-mile) Jericho area, one-fifth of what they had demanded. But they are said to be seeking corridors from the area to two holy sites and a Dead Sea beach.

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Germans Widen Search For Neo-Nazi Attackers

Reuters

BERLIN — The police raided neo-Nazi haunts as they broadened their search across Germany on Wednesday for three skinheads who carved a swastika on the face of a 17-year-old girl in a wheelchair.

The attack Monday in the eastern town of Halle was the latest in a series of neo-Nazi assaults on disabled people and brought widespread condemnation.

"This was an unacceptable infamy," said President Richard von Weizsäcker.

The three skinheads, aged from 15 to 20, cut the swastika on the girl's left cheek with a knife after she refused to shout Nazi slogans.

The hunt for the suspects was expanded to a nationwide level. Off-duty police officers have been called in to help, and more than 4,000 composite sketches of two of

the three attackers had been sent out.

A police spokesman in Halle said that the authorities had received scores of telephone tips about the possible whereabouts or identity of the skinheads, but that there had been no promising leads.

The spokesman added that the police had rounded up rightist radicals in the region surrounding Halle. They also raided more than 25 gathering places for neo-Nazis and set up checkpoints at rail stations.

The girl was attacked as she was returning to Halle's Adolf-Reichwein school after lunch. The three skinheads waited for her to come out of a public toilet for the disabled near the school.

The Berlin daily BZ quoted the girl, identified as only as Elke J., as saying she had refused to shout the slogans and tried to roll her wheelchair away.

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE TRIB

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MONDAY SPORTS

Tuesday
STYLE

Wednesday
STAGE
ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday
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Friday
LEISURE

Saturday-Sunday
ART/
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Governor of Hong Kong Denies That He Is Telling China What to Do

SYDNEY — Governor Chris Patten of Hong Kong on Wednesday defended his handling of the British colony's 1997 return to China against criticism by a former Australian leader in a letter published in The Australian newspaper.

"It is wholly inaccurate to suggest that I am trying to tell China how to govern itself," Mr. Patten wrote. His letter responded to an article in The Australian on Jan. 5 in which former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said Mr. Patten's conduct reflected Britain's "traditional incapacity" to understand Asia.

Mr. Fraser said Mr. Patten was trying to establish elements of democracy in Hong Kong that were unacceptable to China and would not survive the transfer.

"He acknowledges that he does not believe I am doing this out of mischief and disruptive intent," Mr. Patten wrote, "but even so I

must correct a rather serious misunderstanding of what is happening here."

The governor said at issue between Britain and China was the mechanics of Hong Kong elections, not the establishment of democracy in the British colony.

He said both countries agreed in their 1984 Joint Declaration on Hong Kong that the legislature of the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China would be elected.

He added that China's Basic Law for Hong Kong, which takes effect in 2007, stipulated that one-third of the first legislature would be elected, followed by 40 percent of the second and 50 percent of the third.

"So it is already accepted by China that Hong Kong will become progressively more democratic," Mr. Patten wrote.

Airport Funding Dispute
China has attacked the Hong Kong government for unilaterally seeking funds to finance a new airport, Reuters reported.

"The Hong Kong government has unilaterally sought quick funds from the Legislative Council without discussing it with the Chinese side," said Lu Ping, director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office. "The Chinese side does not agree to such a piecemeal method."

On Monday, the government gave legislators two options for the \$2.3 billion project. The first option was to approve enough funds to push ahead with the project step by step and the second was to suspend all new work until a deal has been struck with China.

The government estimated that under the second option there would be a \$510 million surge in the project's cost for every six months of delay.

The government will make a definitive funding request to the legislature next week.



SIFTING THE DEBRIS IN SYDNEY — A Sydney resident sifting through the remains of his house, which was among 200 structures razed in a week of raging bushfires. Fire fighters had contained about half of the more than 150 blazes burning across southeast Australia but braced for a renewed emergency as meteorologists forecast more hot, dry weather.

Kim Il Sung Said to Seek China's Help With West

SEOUL — President Kim Il Sung of North Korea wants to visit China to enlist its help in expanding relations with the West, the South Korean news agency Yonhap reported Wednesday.

"North Korea is secretly sounding out the Chinese government through diplomatic channels on the possibility of Kim's visit," Yonhap quoted an unidentified source as saying in Beijing.

"Beijing is showing agreement in principle for the North Korean leader's visit to China after the nuclear question is resolved," the source was quoted as saying.

North Korea has been locked in a dispute with the United States and its allies over Pyongyang's suspected development of nuclear weapons.

The North Koreans agreed in negotiations last week with the United States to open their seven declared nuclear sites to international inspectors. But they have re-

sisted efforts by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect two other sites where Western intelligence agencies suspect nuclear weapons are being developed.

According to U.S. sources, the Chinese have played an active behind-the-scenes role in trying to persuade North Korea to settle the nuclear dispute to the satisfaction of the United States, its allies and the UN nuclear agency.

"If Kim's visit takes place, Kim and Chinese leaders will discuss such issues as reform and open-door policy in North Korea, improvements in North Korea's relations with Japan and the United States, an inter-Korean summit and South-North relations," the source was quoted as saying.

Yonhap's report said Foreign Jang Yop, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the North's Supreme People's Assembly, would visit Beijing later this month to discuss President Kim's trip.

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OPINION

No Matter How Deep the Hole...

By Charles Peters

WASHINGTON — When Danny Ferguson denied in an affidavit that President Bill Clinton had offered him and other Arkansas troopers federal jobs for covering up trysts that occurred when he was governor, most of us were relieved. This had been the most troubling element in the stories of sexual scandal in The American Spectator and the Los Angeles Times.

Since most people (myself included) did not believe that the remaining allegations about sexual misconduct, even if proved true, were enough to bring down the promising president, we were willing to forgive him. I hope Bill Clinton would not be so willing to forgive himself.

But I am very much afraid that he will see this episode as further evidence that however deep a hole he is in, he will manage to climb out.

A respected journalist once told me that he thought Mr. Clinton's deepest conviction was his belief that he could always "get away with it." I am not that cynical, but I do worry that the White House's insensitivity to ethical issues is threatening the moral authority of the presidency. That can have the gravest of consequences.

December began with the announcement that two senior members of the White House staff, Roy Neel and Howard Baker, were leaving for lucrative jobs in the private sector. These jobs would permit them to continue on their connections in a way that the administration had once promised would not be tolerated. Yet they departed with the president's praise.

Then came the appointment of Bobby Ray Inman as secretary of defense, which made him the 27th Clinton appointee not to have paid Social Security taxes for domestic help. In his contempt for the law, Mr. Inman was doubtless the champion, since he failed to pay up for almost a year after the Zoe Baird and

Kimba Wood cases left no doubt about the law. Even Commerce Secretary Ron Brown had paid up by then.

But we should note that Mr. Brown's continued presence in the cabinet constitutes another reason to question the administration's probity. After all, he could not recall any meetings with a Vietnamese businessman said to have offered him a \$700,000 bribe to open up trade with Vietnam — until clear evidence of three such meetings emerged.

Bill and Hillary Clinton were cheap-skating on ethical thin ice when they used Vincent Foster to do their personal legal work on their Whitewater real estate investment and other matters while the public was paying him to work on the president's official business.

One cannot help fearing that the ice broke with Whitewater. The stage may have been set for a Whitewater scandal when the Clintons decided to have Mrs. Clinton practice with a major Little Rock law firm while her husband was governor. That exposed the Clintons to potential conflicts of interest.

Thus, when James McDougal, their Whitewater partner, said he authorized a \$2,000-a-month retainer to Mrs. Clinton for representing his Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan because he was "giving a friend's wife some work," it did not seem coincidental that the friend happened to be the governor, who could shield Mr. McDougal from undue state regulatory curiosity.

Such embarrassments endanger presidential authority in several ways. One of the most important has been shown by the administration's difficulty in finding good people for government jobs. America needs a president with the stature to summon the ablest Americans to devote at least part of

their lives to public service, the more morally dubious the White House, the less attractive government seems.

There has long been a shortage of qualified people in government, a deprivation that is now especially severe among Democrats, who have been out of the White House for all but five of the last 25 years. It is a grave problem in a society that has too long undervalued public service.

Only during the New Deal and the New Frontier was there a major effort to bring the most talented citizens to Washington. The result is that far too many of the people experienced in government are mediocre. The most glaring deficiency of Al Gore's "Reinventing Government" report was its failure to recognize this quality problem.

According to the Volcker Commission on the Public Service, 90 percent of college honor students do not even consider a career in government.

The president also needs respect if he is to perform another essential but too often neglected function of his office: educating the people on important issues. Take health reform. The people are not going to accept Ira Magaziner's proposal unless the president educates them about it and the alternatives.

Developing the plan in secret was a disastrous mistake that can be remedied only by open discussion that emphasizes careful explanation of the choices rather than propaganda for the administration's proposal.

The value-added tax on consumption is an example of why such explanation is needed. Last spring the tax was rejected as a means of financing health reform because a poll showed that the public opposed it, according to Stanley Greenberg, the White House pollster. But no one had explained the pros and cons to the people, so they had no way of knowing that it might

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protect jobs better than the payroll tax disguised as a "premium" that the administration advocates. Because it adds to the cost of employment, it is almost certain to discourage hiring.

Instead of recognizing this obligation to educate, often the Clintons seem not to want the public to learn about successful alternative health care plans like Canada's.

As for foreign policy, it would have been much better if Mr. Clinton had carefully explained the options and hazards in Bosnia, Somalia and Haiti and had given the public a chance to be heard before decisions were made.

Virtually every foreign policy decision in today's world will have potential consequences that the people

In Rural Java, Death Comes To a Fighter and a Dreamer

By Goenawan Mohamad

JAKARTA — The story of Marsinah shows the ugly side of economic growth in Indonesia. She was brutally murdered, apparently for having dared to press for improvement in workers' rights. Her mutilated body was found in May near Jombang, a village on Java, the main island of Indonesia.

Marsinah is a shining symbol of the fight for human rights. She demonstrated that such rights are not a luxury, nor are they something that those with power willingly confer.

Marsinah was only 23 when she died. Although she lived in poverty, she was

which was payable only if an employee showed up for work.

This, of course, was not enough to live on. Marsinah and some of her fellow workers joined to demand that the daily meal allowance be built into the regular wage.

Making such a demand took courage — the workers had created a disturbance. They had disrupted the "peace," "harmony," "order" and "unity" that are the watchwords of Indonesian industrialization and development.

In Indonesia, owners of capital accumulate wealth by all possible means. Managers and executives can multiply their incomes. But workers should never ask for more. Indonesia's economic progress, investment in manufacturing and rising export earnings have hinged on meager labor wages.

So at Marsinah's company not only the bosses and foremen but the security apparatus, acting on behalf of the state authorities, immediately took action to silence the rebellious workers. Marsinah was fired. Marsinah was murdered.

We do not know just who was responsible for her death, but it seems clear why she was killed. The horrible wounds to her abdomen showed that she had been sexually assaulted and stabbed. Her pelvic bones were shattered. Marsinah was victimized both because she was an activist and because she was a woman.

As part of an overvalued labor force in the world's fourth most populous nation, women in Indonesia find themselves in a weak position.

They are also vulnerable in today's cultural environment. This is a world that has only winners and losers. It is a world obsessed with violent verbs such as *ganyang* (crush), *bunuh* (kill) and *gempuk* (lobber). These are the metaphors of fighting and male virility, but also of despotism.

Whoever murdered Marsinah must have thought that the death of a village woman worker would not stir much attention. They must have thought that the body dumped on the roadside would instill fear among others who challenged local order.

Fortunately, Marsinah's case has attracted wide attention. In their arrogance, the killers failed to realize that the moment she and her colleagues went on strike to demand better wages, workers could no longer be ignored in Indonesia. And because Marsinah dared to be part of a liberating ideal force for stronger rights that is gathering strength in Indonesia, women have ceased to be marginal.

MEANWHILE

determined to better her own life and the lives of those around her. She was an adopted child of a poor farming family. Even as a child, she worked hard to make ends meet, selling snacks. When it rained, she used banana leaves as an umbrella. Her family lacked the money for her to continue her education beyond high school.

But she had dreams. She believed that there would always be opportunity for any Indonesian to find a decent place. She attended computer and English classes. To learn more, she read newspapers and watched television at a neighbor's place. She once told an acquaintance, "Knowledge will change one's destiny."

Marsinah was determined to change her lot and escape from poverty. She worked at a shoe factory for a year. Then she got a job with a watch-making company. Her daily wage was 1,700 rupiahs (about 80 cents), plus a meal allowance of 550 rupiahs.

The writer is editor of The Washington Monthly. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Long Way From Watergate

The use of the "gate" suffix in the Whitewater development affair is an attempt to tar President Bill Clinton with the Nixon brush. The differences between the two are enormous.

Watergate involved the abuse of power by a sitting president, including such impeachable offenses as coaching witnesses in perjury and authorizing unlawful break-ins. The "evidence" against Richard Nixon was overwhelming.

"Whitewatergate" questions the role of the then-governor of Arkansas in a land development project with a man who headed a failing S&L association. There has been no charge of criminal activity on the part of Mr. Clinton, nor is there any evidence of any wrongdoing. Moreover, those self-righteous Republicans who are demanding that all

papers involving the transaction be made public are the same people who opposed all investigations into the illegal sale of arms to Iran, the illegal delivery of arms to the Nicaraguan Contras, and the Bank of Lavoiron scam that enabled Iraq to finance its invasion of Kuwait with U.S. taxpayers' dollars.

AARON STERNFIELD, Morges, Switzerland.

effort is being made in some official Western circles to equate the raped with their aggressors.

But most urgently, and especially as a Muslim, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the many Jewish groups and individuals that have spoken forcefully on this issue, and the many among them who have exposed themselves to danger by going to Sarajevo. Perhaps, as the end comes nearer, this "little" is far superior to what official Islamic institutions, governments and rulers have been willing to do. How many prominent Muslim personalities, let alone rulers, have gone to Sarajevo? A few? No, none!

Why should Muslim rulers and elites try to defend faraway Muslims? A European Islam is intuitively perceived by

many of them, and correctly so, as a potential ideological threat to their miserable tyrannies. It is no secret that in most Islamic countries the tragedy of Bosnia is a political embarrassment.

If we do not have the courage to defend the Bosnians, then the least we can do is to give them the means to defend themselves. Anything less, as Henry Siegman poignantly points out, is hypocrisy.

TAWFIQ IBRAHIM, Madrid.

man. Voluntary Film Self Control Board, a generally admirable arbiter of tastes, has been well-guided for years, not by bureaucrats but by the aristocracy of the country's arts, professions and clergy. If Americans cannot accept cultural leadership, then they will continue with anti-cultural leadership.

ROBERT WULGER, Bangkok.

underlying causes, but it will at least prevent disgraceful speeches like the one given at Kean by Khalil Abdul Mohammed of the Nation of Islam.

SIMON HAYES, Adelaide, Australia.

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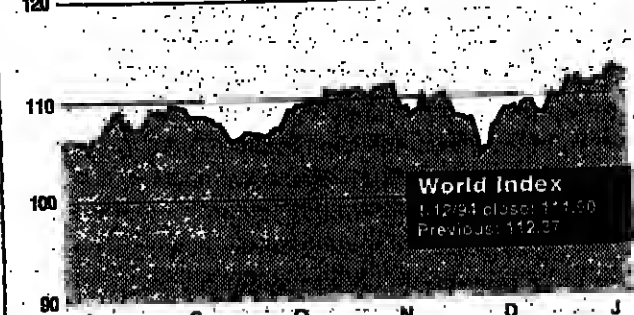
BUSINESS

International Herald Tribune, Thursday, January 13, 1994

Page 9



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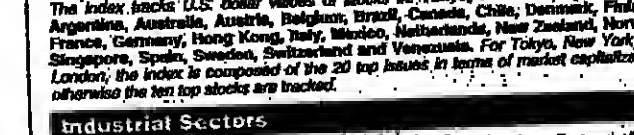
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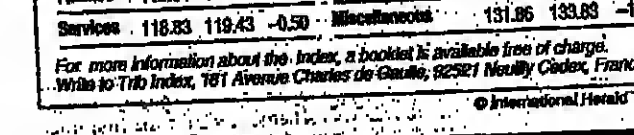
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Sector	Index	Change
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Metals	112.24	+0.07
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Malaysia Stocks Hit By Negara

Credit Tightened By Central Bank

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service
KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's stock and money markets were plunged into confusion Wednesday after the central bank took measures to drain liquidity from the banking system.

The ringgit plunged to a two-year low against the dollar, and stocks went into a free fall as overseas funds pulled out of profits they had made in a dizzying bull market that had begun to worry the government.

The Kuala Lumpur stock market's composite index soared 90 percent in 1993. The central bank, Bank Negara, said late Tuesday it was taking new measures that would effectively drain billions of dollars from the banking system.

It followed that up with changes Wednesday in the way it calculates banks' so-called eligible liabilities, measures that would require banks to put still more money aside as reserves.

The composite index, which fell 5.57 percent Tuesday after a government official warned that share prices were too high, plunged more than 6 percent, or a record 73.33 points.

In the currency market, the dollar was quoted as at 2.74 ringgit at one point. It fell to 2.72 ringgit later but was still well above Tuesday's close of 2.6615.

Analysts, however, still said the Malaysian currency and the stock market were fundamentally strong because of the buoyant economy.

"Short term, it is bad news for the stock market," Choong Khuei Hock, managing director of Barclays de Zoete Wedd (Malaysia), said of the central bank's moves.

"But in the medium term, bringing liquidity down will ensure that the bull run is more sustainable, because it was really getting out of hand," he said.

Ties That May Bind U.S. Gore Hits a Blow for Communications

By Edmund L. Andrews

WASHINGTON — Few subjects are closer to Vice President Al Gore's heart than the development of an advanced communications network for the country, but on this matter the administration has decided it is wiser to coax than to dictate.

In a speech in Los Angeles, Mr. Gore outlined a series of legislative initiatives aimed at promoting the construction of an advanced nationwide network that can link classrooms, electronic libraries, rural doctors and people at home.

But in terms of federal technology initiatives, this is a far cry from the crash program in the 1960s to put a man on the moon. The federal government is too pressed to finance any of the new network construction, which could total as much as \$400 billion over the next 20 years, and few experts think the government should even try.

The cable television and telephone industries are already racing to lay thousands of miles of optical fiber and buying new computers in store and office. The last thing the administration wants to do is spoon-feed investors with regulatory broadening.

Instead, the administration is hoping to influence events by reducing the regulatory barriers that have prevented competition between telephone and cable television companies.

The administration also wants to promote standards that allow different networks to communicate with each other and gently prod the industry's players to think about the broader public interest.

Thus, in his speech Tuesday, Mr. Gore "challenged" telephone and cable companies to link all classrooms, libraries and health clinics to an inter-

active video and data network by 2000. He did not suggest that government would force them to do it, or even propose how they should do it.

Likewise, while laying down the basic principles for a broad new regulatory regime that takes account of explosive changes in technology and the marketplace, Mr. Gore made it clear that many of the details would have to be worked out by the Federal Communications Commission.

Still, his effort is important for several reasons. More than at any time in the last 20 years, there is a consensus in private industry and in Congress that the time is ripe for a major revision of communications laws, some of which date back to the Communications Act of 1934.

The essence of that consensus is to relax barriers and permit much greater competition between the local telephone, cable and long-distance companies — while protecting consumers as old regulations are abandoned in favor of marketplace competition.

The goals enunciated by the vice president dovetail with legislation drafted by top lawmakers in the House and the Senate.

Indeed, the White House has taken scrupulous care to avoid upsetting delicate compromises that lawmakers on the House Energy and Commerce Committee have already worked out among different factions of the communications industry.

By putting its muscle behind this emerging consensus, specialists say, the White House greatly increases the chances that Congress will pass far-reaching changes that could unlock billions of dollars in investment and lay down rules of the road in an era of expanded communications.

German Banks Face Off Over Metallgesellschaft

By Brandon Mitchener

FRANKFURT — Creditors and shareholders of Metallgesellschaft AG played brinkmanship over the floundering German metals group Wednesday, missing a deadline to agree on a bailout and pushing the company one step closer to bankruptcy.

Deutsche Bank AG, the largest shareholder in Metallgesellschaft as well as coordinator of the rescue program, said: "If no agreement is reached soon, Metallgesellschaft will have to hand over its affairs to the courts." The company asked its 120 creditors to accept the rescue plan swiftly and "as a whole."

But Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale in Hannover, a large German bank that is one of Metallgesellschaft's top five creditors, repeated on Wednesday that it would not support the rescue plan unless "Deutsche Bank budges first."

In rejecting the plan, NordLB proposed an equity writedown, which would dilute the influence of Deutsche Bank. Dresdner Bank

and other large institutional shareholders, effectively punishing them for any part they might have played in the confusion.

Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank, which were already heavily exposed in Metallgesellschaft's losses, have extended their credit lines by another 750 million DM each, but NordLB has argued that they should shoulder an even bigger burden because of their involvement in the company's affairs.

Metallgesellschaft shares fell 10 Deutsche marks, to 226 DM, on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

"I think we need more time to coordinate the 100-plus creditors," Deutsche Bank Chairman Hilmar Kopper said in Reuters in Berlin.

[Barclays PLC said Wednesday that it was "supportive in principle" of the restructuring plan proposed by Metallgesellschaft AG.

AFP-Exel News reported from London. "We have made a constructive response to Deutsche Bank in this connection," a Barclays spokesman said.]

Metallgesellschaft has said that key shareholders such as Allianz AG Holding, Daimler-Benz AG and the Kuwait Investment Office have indicated that their agreement to the plan was dependent on acceptance by the banks.

Weighing each institution's answer would probably delay an announcement until late Thursday or Friday, sources said. Some expected NordLB to back down and agree to the accord.

The metals giant has said it would begin bankruptcy proceedings immediately if its creditors turned down the rescue proposals.

Deutsche Bank warned Wednesday that the cost of letting Metallgesellschaft fail would undoubtedly exceed the cost of a rescue for shareholders and creditors alike.

"Self-interest dictates the need for an agreement," it said. Creditors could only expect to receive 40 to 50 percent of their 9 billion DM in loans to the company if it declared insolvency.

Alcatel Expected to Control Framatome

By Jacques Neher

PARIS — Framatome SA, the French state-controlled builder of nuclear power plants, will enter the private sector, the Industry Ministry said Wednesday, and Alcatel SA appeared likely to become its new owner.

Gérard Longueur, the industry minister, said Framatome would be sold in an off-market transaction, rather than in a public stock offering, because the company was not well known enough to spark wide investor interest.

The minister said he had asked the Privatization Commission to work up a valuation for the company's shares.

Analysts, however, said the decision to make Framatome an off-market privatization would facilitate transferring the state's shares to Alcatel, which already owns 44.1 percent of Framatome and has long wanted to regain majority control it had obtained, and then lost,

in 1990 in a showdown with the then-Socialist government.

"When the government says it wants to put Framatome into private hands, it means Alcatel's hands," said Kevin Brau, analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston in London.

In an interview published in Les Echos on Wednesday, Pierre Suard, chairman of Alcatel, said the state had indirect interests in Framatome through a 36 percent holding by CEA, the French Atomic Energy Agency; a 10 percent stake held by Electricité de France, the national electric utility; and 5 percent held by Credit Lyonnais. An additional 5 percent is spread among Framatome employees.

Company sources suggested that 5 percent of the 7 percent required to give Alcatel Alstom majority control would most likely be surrendered by Credit Lyonnais, which is trying to focus on core banking activities and return to profitability. Analysts suggest that the 7 percent stake could be valued at 1.5 billion francs.

Framatome had sales in 1993 of 16 billion francs and net profits of 900 million francs. Sales are expected to boom in 1994 as high as 20 billion francs, as two reactors built at Daya Bay in China, and now operational, are to be billed.

However, the future for Framatome is clouded by a frigid international market for nuclear power plants. The company is in a joint venture with Kraftwerk Union AG, the nuclear plant unit of Siemens AG, to design an advanced nuclear reactor for export markets. But there is not likely to be any demand in Western Europe for such plants in the foreseeable future, analysts say.

INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

Is It Really the Next Paramount?

By Pamela Kruger

NEW YORK TIMES SERVICE
In a small office outside Los Angeles, Leonard Modinow is hard at work, thumbing through books like "Science Facts You Won't Believe" and "Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts."

An employee of Knowledge Adventure Inc., a young multimedia software company in La Cienega, California, Mr. Modinow is looking for "weird science facts" to include in an educational computer game, combining video, sound, graphics and text, that he is developing for children. "Did you know," he said, grinning, "that snails sleep for three years?"

Mr. Modinow is in a good mood. Last spring, he was just another television writer for hire in Los Angeles, churning out scripts with sometimes dubious premises. (His last: "A parody of 'The Manchurian Candidate' in the area of dieting.")

Now, he is an employee, with stock options, at a hot little interactive media company, which is winning industry praise for its quality programs.

"It's really exciting," said Mr. Modinow, 37. "It's like getting in on the ground floor of what you hope will be the next Paramount."

Indeed, seemingly overnight, the interactive multimedia industry has become a new glamour field, spawning mergers and media bigwigs as drawing such entertainment and media bigwigs as Strauss Zelnick, who quit last summer as president of the 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. to become the head of a small video-game company, Crystal Dynamics Inc. of Palo Alto, California.

"It's like investment banking was 10 years ago," said Andrew Postman, a producer at Knowledge Adventure. "It's attracting a lot of smart people who are looking for opportunities."

But many of those knocking on the door won't get in, at least not now. For although virtually every major publishing house and Hollywood stu-

dio has announced plans to develop sophisticated multimedia software, and although cable, telephone and computer companies are forming alliances to test interactive TV systems, many of these ventures are in their infancy. It will be years before they translate into large numbers of jobs.

"There are a lot more people in the business, but it's a very small base we're building from," said Tim Boyle, acting executive director of the Multimedia Development Group, a San Francisco-based trade association for 360 multimedia companies in the Bay Area. "There is still a lot of hazing in on and two."

And many of those who have landed jobs, like Mr. Modinow, say they have taken pay cuts to break into the field, hoping that their stock options will soar in value.

A recent survey of 200 multimedia companies by Dataquest Inc., a market research firm in San Jose, California, found that 45 percent had annual revenues of less than \$100,000. Nearly 90 percent had fewer than 50 employees.

"Multimedia is still a starving-artist market," says Bruce Ryan, a Dataquest analyst. "There isn't a plethora of high-paying jobs out there."

To be sure, some multimedia software companies, like Knowledge Adventure, Electronic Arts in San Mateo, and Compton's New Media in Carlsbad, are hiring on a large scale.

These companies, which were started by computer whizzes in California before the corporate titans discovered the market, have been doubling the price of multimedia software for years as the price of multimedia software has grown for years.

Still, employees tend to be extremely selective about whom they hire. And they can afford to be.

See MULTIMEDIA, Page 13

Swiss Set To Toughen Money Law

Bloomberg Business News

BERN — Switzerland proposed measures Wednesday to toughen money-laundering laws, a step President Otto Stich called necessary to preserve the country's reputation as a "solid financial center."

The proposals, if adopted, would shift the onus for signaling suspected illegal activity to banks and other financial institutions.

Under Switzerland's current bank-secrecy law, banks are not required to disclose information on clients and transactions if they suspect illegal activity, unless asked to do so by authorities.

"The bank-secrecy law should not protect criminals," said Mr. Stich, who until recently was finance minister, at a press conference. "Switzerland's reputation is after all based on the fact that we are a solid financial center where we can't just do anything."

He said the proposal was a marked improvement over the current law because it made not only banks but every member of the financial sector responsible for reporting suspect activity.

The law would affect investment-management firms, insurance companies, the Swiss postal service and individuals such as fiduciary trustees, lawyers and others who undertake cash or credit transactions.

Bubble Bursts for the Bust Business

By Alison Leigh Cowan

NEW YORK — The legions of lawyers, accountants and investment bankers who have made good livings in the last few years working out the bad-debt cases of the 1980s are about to face their worst fears: the bankruptcy business is going bust.

Last year, for the first time since 1989, fewer companies entered bankruptcy than left, helping slow the volume of billion-dollar cases to a trickle.

That helps explain why America's roughly 20,000 bankruptcy specialists are clinging fast to the clients they have left — and are turning the last megadollar cases like R.H. Macy & Co. into all-you-can-eat buffets.

"If you take a look around, there really aren't too many other major busted 1990s deals sitting there in bankruptcy," said Robert L. Miller, a lawyer at Berlack, Isaac & Liberman who represents Macy's bondholders. "This seems to be the last one."

The bankruptcy fees in the Macy case, while not the largest ever, are a stunning illustration of the meat-ticket mentality. Already 11 professional firms, representing Macy's creditors and bondholders, have won more than \$37.9 million in fees from the two-year-old case, which is expected to take another year or two to resolve.

Well Goshal, alme, has billed Macy \$13.5 million, more than a third of the total fees. At the firm, 126 people call Macy their client: 31 partners, 50 associates and 45 other employees. And at least 24 of those lawyers each bill more than \$10,000 a calendar quarter.

For five years now, one big company after another sought refuge in the bankruptcy courts, clogging the courts and making a bankruptcy filing as routine as a Hollywood hangover. Consumers learned not to care when a beloved airline or retailer took the cure — although competitors often complained that bankruptcy rivals had an unfair edge, taking advantage of the temporary moratoriums on their debt to lower prices ruthlessly.

As the megabankruptcies swelled, so did the number of people feeding off their carcasses. Nearly 20,000 Americans now make their living from bankruptcy-related work, according to Joel W. Lustig, the publisher of the National Directory of Corporate Distress Specialists.

That head count includes 12,500 lawyers, 2,000 turnaround managers, 700 accountants, and 650 finance specialists, and does not begin to cover the thousands of people ranging from auctioneers in collectible markets who operate on the fringes or spend only part of their time tending troubled businesses or their creditors.

But as the economy improves and companies renegotiate their debts, the bankruptcy banquet is coming to a close. Indeed, last year, 93 companies left bankruptcy while only 83 companies entered, according to Edward I. Altman, a New York University finance professor who studies distressed companies.

What is more, fewer of these filings are of spectacular size. Large companies with lots of layers of debt and equity are generally where the biggest killings are made since each corporation wants its own representatives.

Ailing Rocket Industry Has U.S. in Orbit

By John Mintz

WASHINGTON — The U.S. space industry, which put Americans on the moon and was the leader in space discovery for decades, is now preoccupied with the goings-on in a remote town in the jungle of French Guiana, and it is begging the government for help.

The town of Kourou is the location of a high-tech launching site built by a team of European nations for rockets that are inexpensive to build and launch. The Europeans' Ariane rockets — like Russia's Proton rockets, launched from Kazakhstan, and China's Long Marches, lofted from the Gobi Desert — are so cheap that U.S. firms fear bankruptcy because they can't compete.

The industry is "on its way to being destroyed" if the U.S. government doesn't help, Norman R. Augustine, chairman of Martin Marietta Corp., told analysts last year. "You'll see people laid off by the thousands."

Last month Martin Marietta doubled its investment in this risky business when it announced an agreement to buy General Dynamics Corp.'s rocket division for \$208 million.

That deal will pay off, industry analysts said, only if the government helps finance development of U.S. rockets can put objects into orbit for \$12,000 per pound of payload, and the upcoming Ariane 5 will be able to do it for \$8,000 per pound.

The Chinese and Russians can do it for \$4,000. As for the equipment itself, the U.S. Delta, Atlas and Titan rockets are based on 1950s-era technology.

Martin Marietta was a law saying federal agencies must launch payloads on U.S.-built rockets. "The government has allowed U.S. launch capabilities to deteriorate to a point where they can no longer compete with those of other nations," said Loren Thompson, deputy director of Georgetown

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates	Jan. 12	Jan. 12	Jan. 12	Jan. 12	Jan. 12	Jan. 12	Jan. 12	Jan. 12	Jan. 12
Australian dollar	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49
British pound	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65
Canadian dollar	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
French franc	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55
German mark	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Italian lira	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936
Japanese yen	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161
New Zealand dollar	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68
Portuguese escudo	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48
Spanish peseta	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64
Swedish krona	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46
Swiss franc	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48
Taiwan dollar	24.63	24.63	24.63	24.63	24.63	24.63	24.63	24.63	24.63
Thai baht	54.80	54.80	54.80	54.80	54.80	54.80	54.80	54.80	54.80
U.S. dollar	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Yen	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161

	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3-month	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
6-month	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
9-month	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
12-month	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
18-month	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
24-month	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00

Rate of \$1 million minimum (for equivalents).

Source: Reuters.

Long Marches, lifted from the Gobi Desert — are so cheap that U.S. firms fear bankruptcy because they can't compete.

The industry is "on its way to being destroyed" if the U.S. government doesn't help, Norman R. Augustine, chairman of Martin Marietta Corp., told analysts last year. "You'll see people laid off by the thousands."

Last month Martin Marietta

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MARKET DIARY

Profit-Takers Bite Into Dow for 2d Day

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Blue-chip stock prices were eroded by mild profit-taking Wednesday as the market appeared to consolidate gains from the six-day bull run that ended earlier this week.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which retreated 15.20 points Tuesday, closed off 1.68 points on Wednesday at 3,848.63, it had fallen by as much as 25 points in the course of the session.

In spite of the fall in the Dow, advances topped declines by a mar-

N.Y. Stocks

gin of 12 to 11 on the New York Stock Exchange, indicating Wednesday's pullback might have represented little more than a continuation of Tuesday's shallow corrective action after the previous run, which included four consecutive record Dow closes.

Trude Laitner, vice president and chief market strategist at Wayne Grayson Capital Corp., called the market's continued retreat "a healthy consolidation."

"We're getting a bit ahead of ourselves, and I'd be very happy if we pulled back some more," she said. "Otherwise, we'll become too vulnerable."

Volume totaled 309.9 million shares on Wednesday, up from 304.6 million on Tuesday.

The market had been boosted ear-

ly in the session Wednesday by a bond rally following the announcement that producer prices had fallen by 0.1 percent in December. As a result, the bellwether 30-year Treasury bond, which edged up 5/32 Tuesday to yield 6.34 percent, surged 3/8, 32 to 101 1/32. The issue's yield fell to 6.17 percent.

Semiconductor makers posted gains as the industry's book-to-bill ratio, a measure of demand, rose to 1.04 in December from 0.99 in November. That means chip makers got \$104 of new orders for every \$100 of product shipped last month. Intel rose 1 1/4 to 63 1/4. Motorola climbed 2 1/4 to 94 1/4. Texas Instruments rose 3/4 to 70 1/4. Micron Technology rose up 1 1/4 to 54 1/4 and Micron Technology rose 2 1/4 to 39 1/4.

Alcatel Alsthom, the French telecommunications company, fell 2 1/4 to 26 1/4 after the company said it expected 1994 earnings to fall below 1993 profits, prompting analysts at CS First Boston and S.G. Warburg to pull their buy recommendations. Alcatel's rallied to rise 1 1/4 to 13 after a Merrill Lynch & Co. analyst repeated an "above average" rating, citing the stock's 5.2 percent dividend yield and prospects for an earnings recovery in 1994.

ChemTrak rose 1 to 7 1/4 after Ortho Pharmaceutical Corp., a unit of Johnson & Johnson, agreed to market ChemTrak's home cholesterol test.

(Knight-Ridder, UPI, Bloomberg)

Low-Inflation Report Sends Dollar Down

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar fell in active trading Wednesday after a report on producer prices in December indicated inflationary pressures were still slight.

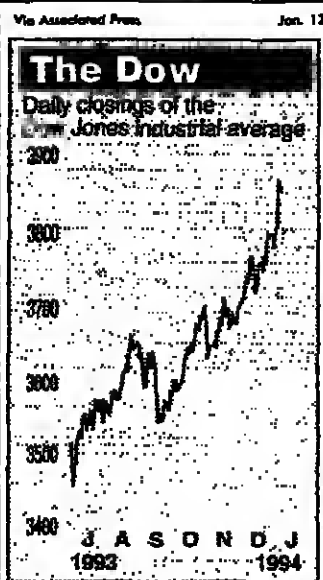
Analysts said the news that wholesale prices fell 0.1 percent in the United States last month indi-

cated that the Federal Reserve Board would be disinclined to raise interest rates to defend against inflation. Lower interest rates tend to make a currency less attractive to international investors.

The dollar closed at 1.7339 Deutsche marks on Wednesday, down from 1.7419 DM at Tuesday's close, and to 1.1227 yen from 1.1249 yen. It also slipped to 1.4635 Swiss francs from 1.4780 francs and to 5.8960 French francs from 5.9210. The pound rose to \$1.5035 from \$1.4900.

"This throws cold water on the notion that the Fed will raise rates in the first quarter," Angelo Evans, vice president at Bank of Boston, said. "That means the dollar will weaken."

A series of strong economic re-



Daily closing of the Dow Jones industrial average

Jan. 13, 1994

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Jan. 11, 1994

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Dow Jones Averages

Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	3855.18	3858.48	3848.63	-1.68
Transp	1822.48	1825.01	1817.22	-1.09
Comp	1488.02	1491.00	1483.46	-2.30

Standard & Poor's Indexes

High	Low	Close	Chg.
Indus	553.2	549.41	-0.18
Transp	442.8	439.55	-0.04
Comp	352.8	349.55	-0.04

NYSE Indexes

High	Low	Close	Chg.
Composite	362.73	361.27	-0.11
Indus	271.77	270.04	-0.14
Transp	223.74	221.72	-0.19

NASDAQ Indexes

High	Low	Close	Chg.
Composite	784.25	782.31	-1.00
Indus	692.12	689.55	-0.15
Transp	581.48	578.55	-0.14

AMEX Stock Index

High	Low	Close	Chg.
AMEX	478.1	476.34	-0.30

Dow Jones Bond Averages

High	Low	Close	Chg.
20 Years	105.00	104.98	-0.02
10 Years	103.00	102.98	-0.02
5 Years	101.00	100.98	-0.02

Market Sales

High	Low	Close	Chg.
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		

N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading

High	Low	Close	Chg.
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		

S&P 100 Index Options

High	Low	Close	Chg.
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		

NYSE Diary

High	Low	Close	Chg.
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		

Amex Diary

High	Low	Close	Chg.
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		

NASDAQ Diary

High	Low	Close	Chg.
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		
NYSE 4 a.m. volume	200,200,000		

Brazil Index Closes Up 7%

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SAO PAULO — Brazilian stocks soared Tuesday, with a key index rising 7 percent, bolstered by a sharp influx of foreign funds and renewed confidence that the legislature would approve the government's anti-inflation program, brokers said.

The Bovespa index of the 54 most active shares was quoted at 53,643 points, up 3,502 from Tuesday's close.

"Prospects of economic stabilization, an improved political scenario and cheap prices on some second-tier stocks have been underpinning the market," a desk manager at a major brokerage house said.

Investors were lured by "last year's strong returns," said a trader at Banco Itau.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Agence France Presse Jan. 12

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EUROPEAN FUTURES

Class	High	Low	Prev. Close
CO2DA (LCE)	100.00	100.00	100.00
CO2DA (LCE)	100.00	100.00	100.00

British Unemployment Falls Below 10%

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
LONDON — British unemployment fell a seasonally adjusted 46,800 in December to 2.766 million, the biggest monthly fall in more than five years and the fourth consecutive monthly decline, the government said Wednesday.

The jobs rate is now 9.8 percent, falling below 10 percent of the work force for the first time since July 1992. In November, the jobs rate had fallen by 39,000, to a rate of 10 percent.

The unexpectedly good news for the British economy gave a boost to the pound, which ended London trading at 2.6070 Deutsche marks, up from 2.5930 DM on Tuesday. Stocks fell as the prospect of an interest-rate cut receded with the news that the economy was improving, but the outlook for improved economic growth failed to dent bond prices, which had fallen sharply on Thursday.

The drop of 46,800 in the jobs total far exceeded expectations. Most analysts had forecast a fall of only 16,000 to 20,000.

Treasury Minister Anthony Nelson said Wednesday that British interest rates were on hold and a further cut was unlikely. He said the government "was content with the present monetary stance and the present level of interest rates is satisfactory in terms of continuing to bear down on inflation."

Mr. Nelson's comments confirmed a growing belief in financial markets that the government would avoid pushing down base lending rates, which currently stand at 5.5 percent. The Treasury's monthly report on the economy on Wednesday said recovery remained on course and retail sales looked strong.

Many economists say that Britain is on course to achieve the government's forecast of a 2.5 percent increase in gross domestic product this year, with growth gradually accelerating throughout the year.

Employment Secretary David Hunt said unemployment was on a firm downward trend. He contrasted the improvement in the British economy with the slump in Continental Europe. Britain, he said, was "the only country in the European Union" where unemployment was "on a firm downward trend," adding that Britain's more flexible labor market had made this possible.

The government maintains that unemployment has fallen because Britain refused to accept social aspects of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union and because it has abolished wages councils, which set minimum wages in low-pay sectors.

But the Treasury also cautioned that jobs were still being shed in the manufacturing sector. It said 7,000 manufacturing jobs had been lost in November. The rise of 91,000 jobs in the third quarter had been boosted by job creation in the service sector, it said.

Ann Clwyd, employment spokeswoman for the opposition Labor Party, was unimpressed. "The government is using discredited statistics to con the public that it has the economy under control," she said. Other opposition politicians said there were still 2.77 million unemployed and almost a million had been seeking work for over a year.

The Labor Party also cited a recent study which used figures from the International Labor Organization and suggested that the number of people really unemployed, including those unable to claim benefits, was much higher in Britain than admitted by the government.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)

NatWest Cuts 4,000 Jobs

LONDON — National Westminster Bank PLC said on Wednesday that it would cut 4,000 jobs this year, the latest twist in a saga of reductions in Britain's banking industry.

NatWest, the second-largest employer among British banks, said that a total of 5,600 jobs were to go this year but that it would also create 1,600 new positions.

NatWest's announcement came two days after its rival Barclays PLC said it planned to cut staff by 3,000 more than its previous target of 21,000 in the five-year period from 1991 to 1995.

The Banking, Insurance and Finance Union said 100,000 jobs had been lost over the past four years in the banking sector.

NatWest said compulsory redundancies would be "minimal" and it aimed to make as many staff cuts as possible through voluntary means. The bank currently employs about 80,000 staff in Britain and another 10,000 overseas.

Analysts argue that efficiency in the financial services sector lags behind the manufacturing industry and that the only way to close the gap is through automation.

"There is a long-term rationalization process going on, similar to what happened to industrial companies in the early 1980s," said Rod Barrett, an analyst at Goldman, Sachs & Co. "If banks are going to compete in the market against building societies and insurance companies, they've got to become more efficient, which sadly means a reduction in staff numbers."

Deutsche Bank AG, roughly the size of NatWest and Barclays, maintains a worldwide staff of about 75,000. This compares with about 90,000 each for the two big British banks.

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(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)

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(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)

Citicorp Returns to Russia

Bloomberg Business News

MOSCOW — Nearly eight decades after Lenin nationalized its business in the Soviet Union, Citicorp on Friday will open the first fully foreign-owned commercial bank in Russia.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen of the United States is scheduled to cut the ribbon and formally open the new bank.

Milenko Horvat, Citicorp's chief representative in Russia, said Citicorp's unit will concentrate on corporate banking and, later, capital markets, targeting local banks, Russian companies and foreign multinational companies as clients.

"We're going to be a full-service commercial bank," said Mr. Horvat. "People still can't get their money in and out of this country efficiently."

Citicorp, the largest U.S. bank, has no plans to open accounts for individual Russians, said Mr. Horvat. Its Russian operation will have an initial capitalization of \$15 million and the bank expects to do most of its business in rubles.

BP to Close Ethylene Plant to Cut Capacity

Bloomberg Business News

LONDON — British Petroleum PLC said Wednesday it would close its Baglan Bay ethylene plant in South Wales at a cost of £200 million (\$298.3 million) to try to improve earnings from petrochemicals.

But analysts said the move represented only a small first step for the industry, which they said would have to take concerted action to reduce capacity across Europe before it can return to profit.

Ethylene is an important ingredient in a variety of petrochemicals, and it also has agricultural and medical uses.

About 600 staff and contractors' jobs will be eliminated when BP closes the plant in March because of an oversupply of ethylene to the European petrochemical market, BP said. The company said it would try initially to eliminate these jobs through voluntary departures.

"Individually, these closures look small, but if it gains momentum and other companies follow BP's lead, then overcapacity in the industry will die away," Philip Morris, chemicals analyst with Smith New Court in London, said.

The industry estimates it has excess ethylene capacity of 1.5 million metric tons a year, out of a total capacity of 16 million tons.

BP's move, which would remove 335,000 tons of capacity, comes after a failure last month to reach an industrywide agreement on concerted cutbacks.

The company operates or has stakes in three ethylene plants in Britain, one in Germany and one in the south of France.

The company will take the £200 million charge against its fourth-quarter results to cover restructuring of its European petrochemical operations, of which Baglan Bay is the major component.

Shell-Montedison Inquiry

The European Commission said it had opened an inquiry into a polyolefins joint venture between Royal Dutch/Shell Group and Montedison SpA, AFP-Exel reported from Brussels.

The joint venture would be directly controlled by Shell Petroleum NV and Montedison Nederland NV, owner of the Dutch Montedison polyolefin unit Montecatini Nederland BV, the commission said.

(AFP, Reuters, IHT)

BP to Close Ethylene Plant to Cut Capacity

Bloomberg Business News

LONDON — British Petroleum PLC said Wednesday it would close its Baglan Bay ethylene plant in South Wales at a cost of £200 million (\$298.3 million) to try to improve earnings from petrochemicals.

But analysts said the move represented only a small first step for the industry, which they said would have to take concerted action to reduce capacity across Europe before it can return to profit.

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(AFP, Reuters, IHT)

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
2400	3000	2400
2200	2800	2200
2000	2600	2000
1800	2400	1800
1600	2200	1600
1400	2000	1400
1200	1800	1200
1000	1600	1000
800	1400	800
600	1200	600
400	1000	400
200	800	200
0	600	0

Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam AEX		416.35	424.01	-1.81
Brussels Stock Index		7,702.97	7,681.66	+0.28
Frankfurt DAX		2,209.18	2,228.75	-0.88
Frankfurt FAZ		843.91	848.04	-0.53
Helsinki HEX		1,760.19	1,742.31	+1.03
London Financial Times 30		2,574.40	2,606.70	-1.22
London FTSE 100		3,372.00	3,413.80	-1.22
Madrid General Index		331.87	331.58	+0.09
Milan MIB		970.00	965.00	+0.52
Paris CAC 40		2,261.90	2,331.33	-2.12
Stockholm Affarsvechden		1,711.17	1,730.74	-1.13
Vienna Stock Index		501.16	499.77	+0.28
Zurich SBS		1,036.36	1,042.24	-0.68

Sources: Reuters, AFP
International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

Western Germany's inflation was 4.2 percent in 1993, the highest rate since 1982, the Federal Statistics Office said.

France's gross domestic product will grow 1.5 percent in 1994, after a fall of 1.2 percent in 1993, the French Observatory for Economic Forecasting said; it said the growth would not be enough to prevent unemployment, currently 12 percent, from rising.

PSA Peugeot Citroën SA, Europe's third-largest automaker, is studying the possibility of re-entering the American market. Chairman Jacques Calvet said; the company and Fiat SpA also jointly unveiled their new family van and an updated version of their commercial van.

John Kemp-Welch was named chairman of London's stock exchange. To succeed Sir Andrew Huth Smith, who has held the job since 1988, in July.

PreussenElektra AG, an electricity unit of Veba AG, said its 1993 pretax profit was down slightly from 890 million Deutsche marks (\$511.3 million) in the previous year; it did not disclose the actual figure.

Groupe Remy-Cointreau said group pretax profit in the six months ended in September 1993 rose 24 percent from a year earlier, to 129 million French francs (\$21.8 million).

Solidere, the share flotation dedicated to the rebuilding of central Beirut, brought home nearly \$600 million held by Lebanese abroad. Lebanon's central bank said.

Vitag AG said its iron, steel and chemicals unit, Kibickner & Co., had acquired Molen Chemie BV of the Netherlands; the price was not disclosed.

Reuters, AFP, Bloomberg, AP

Ford and Mazda Weigh Europe Link

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

DETROIT — Ford Motor Co. said it expected to begin discussions with Mazda Motor Corp. that could lead to production of a Mazda car in a Ford of Europe plant.

A Ford spokesman noted that the talks would coincide with Ford's increased representation on Mazda's board of directors. Mazda has said repeatedly that it was interested in a manufacturing base in Europe.

Separately, Ford said that it may cancel a program to build an electric car, terming the effort financially wasteful until battery technology advances developed.

(Reuters, LAT)

It's Lost Ground for Olivetti Field Grows in Italy's Cellular-Phone War

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MILAN — Olivetti SpA faces a tough fight in its battle to win Italy's second cellular-phone license now that two rival consortiums competing for the network have joined forces.

The state energy holding Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi SPA announced that it was dropping its bid and hooking up with Unitel, a venture group including BellSouth Corp., Fiat SpA, Silvio Berlusconi's Fininvest SpA, and Vodafone Group PLC, among others.

ENI had been planning to bid with BellSouth, while Fiat and Fininvest were aligned with Vodafone, the creator of Britain's first cellular network. Now the two groups have merged to create a strong competitor for the perceived front-runner in the competition, the "red group" led by Olivetti.

A third group, led by Pacific Telesis Corp., is also planning to bid.

Olivetti has a 51 percent stake in Omnitel, along with Bell Atlantic Corp., which controls 16.6 percent, and L'Espresso Brothers, which has 8 percent. Olivetti had been seen as front-runner, but analysts say Unitel now poses a substantial threat. Yet

another consortium of smaller companies named Pronto Italia and another little-known group, Altel, are also thought likely to put themselves forward, but they are not given much chance.

"This isn't good news for Olivetti because it does beef up the Fiat consortium particularly in areas where people said they lacked technical experience," said Ian Macleod, a Paris-based equity analyst for NatWest.

Bids for the network must reach the Post and Telecommunications Ministry by Saturday, with the winner to be identified in April or May.

"As far as software is concerned Olivetti and Bell Atlantic are the front-runners, but when it comes to hardware, Unitel is probably the best on paper," said Alberto Rotta, an analyst at the Milan brokerage Milla & Co.

Mr. Macleod estimated the license was worth \$3 billion to the winning group.

As to who the winner may be, Mr. Rotta said: "In theory, Unitel look to have an advantage as far as politics are concerned, with state company ENI now on their side."

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

CFA: Shopping Frenzy Is Set Off

Continued from Page 1

tate the re-establishment of the competitiveness of these countries.

Also pledging cash to tide the 14 states over the shock, the French president, Francois Mitterrand, a Socialist, and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, a conservative, said jointly, "These measures bear witness to France's firm and concrete commitment to the Franc Zone."

France will write off 25 billion French francs of the 80 billion owed to it in the Franc Zone.

Countries like the United States, which had made devaluation a condition of helping out, should now be prepared to step in.

France's overseas cooperation minister, Michel Rousset, has been touring West Africa to tell governments that Paris to tell governments that the previous Socialist administration had emphasized the currency devaluation increases im-

port prices but makes exports cheaper.

One of the few CFA zone countries to be spared immediate price jumps was Burkina Faso, where the government swiftly reintroduced price controls.

In Lomé and Cotonou, capitals of Togo and Benin, most small traders failed to open their stores. Those who did refused to sell imported goods. Many people spoke of a "catastrophe," blaming the volatility of political elites, treachery by the former colonial power, France, and an unfair world economic system.

Trade union leaders in several countries warned of "social upheaval" as governments began to prepare measures to tackle inflation, though sources close to the leaders of Ivory Coast, for instance, ruled out price controls.

Ivory Coast, the world's first exporter of cocoa and third of coffee, stands to benefit more than most from the immediate effects of devaluation, financial analysts said.

(AFP, Reuters, IHT)

NASDAQ

Wednesday's Prices
NASDAQ prices as of 4 p.m. New York time. This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

12-Month High Low Stock Div Yld PE Ratio High Low Latest Change

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SPORTS

NCAA Scholarship Vote Brings Call for a Boycott

By Mark Asher and Steve Berkowitz

WASHINGTON Post Staff Writer

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Angered by the National Collegiate Athletic Association's lack of response to its concerns, the Black Coaches Association has called for disruptions during the rest of the college basketball season.

Saturday is the likely starting date for boycotts and demonstrations, according to sources familiar with the strategy planned by the group's leadership.

In all likelihood there will be a boycott, but I am reluctant to give you a time and date," said Rudy Washington, the group's executive director and men's basketball coach at Drake. "Players and coaches are expected to participate. And they're talking about the rest of the season, like the baseball strike."

On Monday, delegates at the annual NCAA convention in San Antonio soundly rejected a proposal that would have restored one scholarship to the 13-scholarship limit for men's basketball teams. The new limit went into effect this season but was criticized by the black coaches group, which said that restoring the 14th scholarship was a matter of providing educational opportunity, particularly for black athletes who make up 60 percent to 70 percent of the NCAA's Division I men's basketball players.

The group had also asked delegates at the convention to reconsider instituting new academic standards for athletes, saying the such changes would have a profound impact on poor students.

Although Division I delegates overwhelmingly voted to approve a "thorough review" of tougher standards for freshmen athletes, they "did nothing" about being sensitive to the coaches' group's issues, said Mike Jarvis, men's basketball coach at George Washington.

"I can't tell you what's going to happen, but maybe it's time for something," he said.

The prospect of a boycott prompted the commissioners of the nation's major basketball-playing conferences to schedule a conference call for Thursday afternoon to decide how to react if a boycott occurs.

Sources said the black coaches group expects some support from high-profile white coaches. Asked about whether he would support a boycott, Mike Krzyzewski of Duke, who is white, said, "I think it's premature to make a definite statement about that."

"The basis here is about opportunity for black athletes, and let's not cover it up with other things that do not pertain to the issue at all," he said.

Sources said the black coaches group, which represents coaches in all sports, has been planning for this possibility since September and said protests and demonstrations were planned to include players, other black students and white coaches.

Other possible actions being considered by the group include refusing to participate in the opening jump ball at the NCAA tournament's championship game; demonstrating at the four NCAA regional championship games; de-

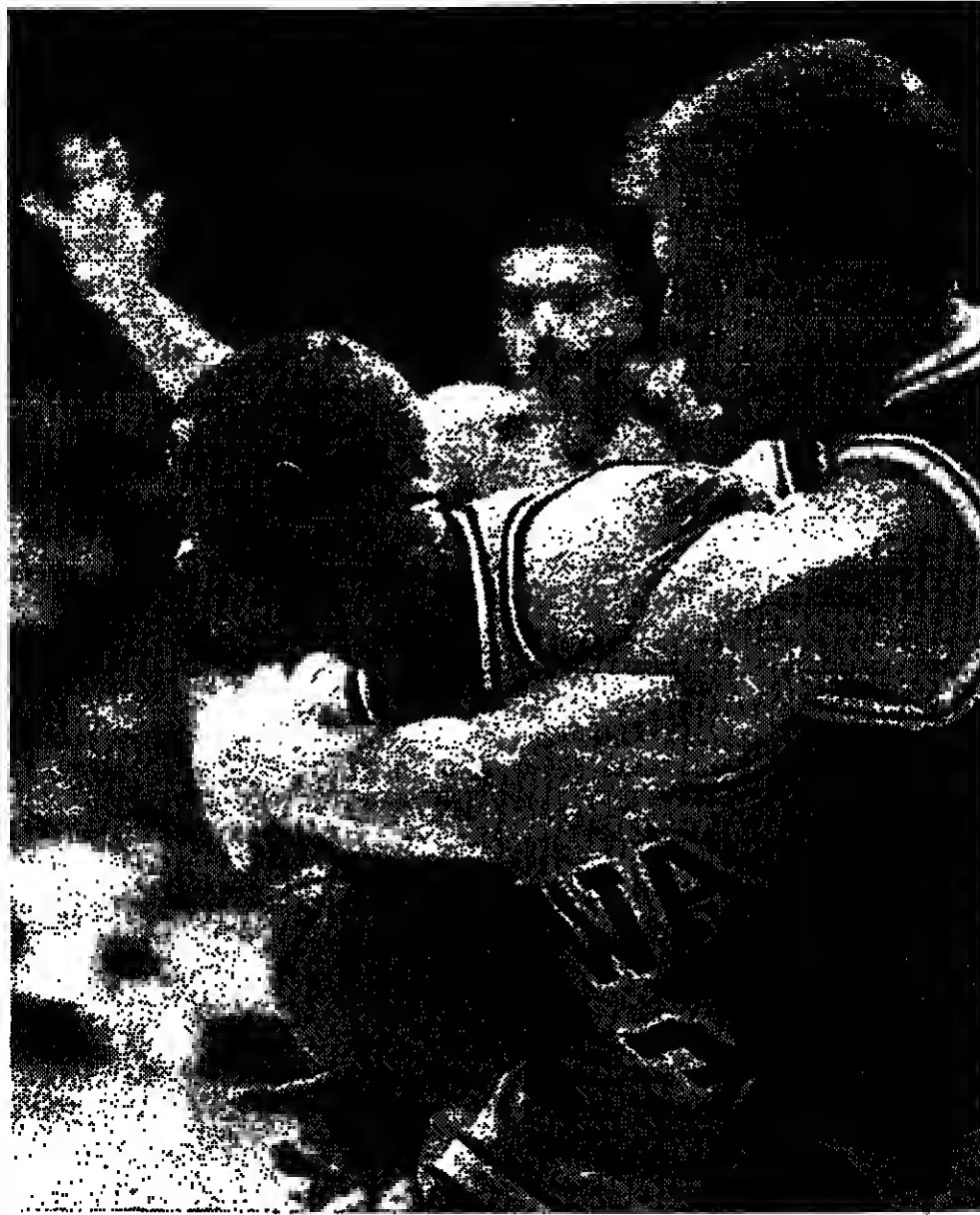
laying traffic to NCAA tournament games; delaying the start or the second half of games by 20 minutes, or both; boycotting all news conferences; requesting local chapters of the NAACP, the Rainbow Coalition and black student unions to picket NCAA tournament games; conducting a court sit-in during a regular season game, and delaying a televised regular season game by 20 minutes.

In a potentially significant vote dwarfed by the specter of a boycott, the NCAA schools approved legislation Tuesday that will allow underclassmen to be drafted by National Basketball Association teams once without forfeiting their eligibility, beginning immediately.

Previously, underclassmen forfeited their eligibility when they informed the NBA they were making themselves available for the draft.

Now, underclassmen who enter the draft will retain their collegiate eligibility until 30 days after the draft. If they declare their intention to return to college during that period, they will be allowed to resume playing for their schools.

This could give underclassmen a considerable degree of leverage in negotiations with NBA teams. It also could cause problems for NCAA coaches, whose recruiting could be affected by players changing their minds about leaving. The deadline for underclassmen to make themselves eligible for the draft generally has been in mid-May, and the draft generally has taken place in late June.



Ross Hadas stole the ball from Kenyon Murray as Indiana again proved to be too good for Iowa.

Jordan the Outfielder? 'You Never Know'

The Associated Press

TOKYO — If any man was ever the picture of contentment, Michael Jordan was it Wednesday as he sat back in a leather chair at his restaurant in Chicago and addressed a roomful of Japanese admirers via satellite.

By his own reckoning, Jordan is a rising success: His restaurant business is booming, and he has a best-selling book and more than enough time for golf and taking care of his

family. Everything a man at the tender age of 30 could want.

Everything, he concedes, except maybe a job in major league baseball. "I don't know if my talents are good enough to play for anybody right now," he said when asked half-jokingly if his future plans included trying his hand at professional baseball. "But if I ever get good enough, you never know."

Speculation that Jordan, who retired from the National Basketball As-

sociation in October, might be considering a career on the diamond had been fueled this month by his new-found propensity for turning up at Comiskey Park for batting practice with the Chicago White Sox.

Jordan said he enjoys the competition element of the workouts, and has been putting in about three hours on the diamond each day. He also noted that many people forget he was recruited to play baseball after high school, but chose basketball instead.

"I was a pitcher," he said with pride. "I don't think my arm is strong enough for the Majors, or even AAA, anymore. I think I'm more suited now to play outfield. I can still throw people out at third."

Jordan did not elaborate on his plans, but the owner of the White Sox, Jerry Reinsdorf, indicated last week that he did not expect the two-time Olympic gold medalist and seven-time NBA leading scorer to show up for spring training next month.

The former NBA star was beamed into Tokyo live for a reception held by the chairman of Nike Inc., Philip H. Knight, who is here to kick off the company's "Just Do It" advertising campaign in the Japanese market.

Jordan said he did not miss being out of professional sports and was not considering a return to basketball.

"I don't have any itches of getting back out there," he said. "I'm over that."

Before signing off, Jordan suggested a second career possibility for another NBA superstar claiming to be ready to move on: Charles Barkley, who has said he plans to retire after this season.

"There comes a time in life when you need to try something new, and sumo wrestling may be that challenge for him, you never know," Jordan said with a wry smile. "He picks up about 20 pounds every summer, so he's getting there. He could certainly be a sumo wrestler."

No. 4 Arkansas Wins As LSU Cries Foul

The Associated Press

The loss to No. 4 Arkansas said LSU's coach, Dale Brown. The way it happened made it doubly hard to swallow.

Clint McDaniel made a free throw with 39 seconds left to break the game's final tie and LSU's Jamie Brandon missed two shots in the final seconds as the Razorbacks slipped by the visiting Tigers, 84-83, Tuesday night.

McDaniel swiped the ball from Andre Owens at mid-court, then was fouled by Owens.

"It was so sad to end such a good game with such a terrible call," Brown said. "Twenty-thousand screaming Arkansas fans could see with their own eyes that (McDaniel) fouled him."

McDaniel missed the second free throw, Brandon's 12-footer hit the rim, but LSU (7-4, 1-2 Southeastern Conference) got the rebound and Brandon missed again from about the same distance.

Corliss Williamson was 11-for-13 from the field and finished with 24 points for Arkansas (11-1, 2-1).

No. 11 Indiana 89, Iowa 75: Damon Bailey and Pat Graham each had 20 points and Brian Evans, playing with his separated right shoulder in a brace, scored a career-high 21 to lead the visiting Hoosiers (9-2, 2-0 Big Ten) to their fifth straight victory over Iowa (6-6, 0-3).

No. 13 Temple 76, Penn 65: The Owls' big three — Aaron McKie, Eddie Jones and Rick Brunson — combined for 62 points as Penn's eight-game winning streak was snapped. McKie had 24 points as Temple (8-2) took command with a 15-4 run in the final minutes for its 13th straight victory over its city rival. Brunson, the point guard, was 6-for-7 from the field and had 16 points and didn't commit a turnover. Jerome Allen led the visiting Quakers (9-2) with 26 points.

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

Robinson Gives Wolves Lot to Chew On

The Associated Press

David Robinson found four ways to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves.

He had 27 points, 12 rebounds, 10 assists and 8 blocks Tuesday night as the Spurs won, 108-98, in San Antonio.

He fell two blocks short of becoming the third player in NBA history to record a quadruple-double — posting double figures in four categories. Nate Thurmond did it in 1974 and Alvin Robertson in 1986.

"David was David," said forward Willie Anderson of the Spurs. Robinson's triple-double was his 12th in the NBA and second of the season against the Timberwolves.

"He's a terrific player — one of the best in the league, no doubt," Minnesota center Luc Longley said. "His

lateral speed out on the floor gives me problems."

San Antonio outscored Minnesota 30-17 in the third period to take an 88-66 lead, and cruised to its eighth victory in nine games.

Trail Blazers 108, Sonics 99: Rod Strickland had 22 points, 10 assists, 8

NBA HIGHLIGHTS

rebounds and no turnovers as Portland, playing at home, handed Seattle only its fourth loss in 30 games. The Sonics never seriously threatened after the Trail Blazers pulled away early in the second quarter.

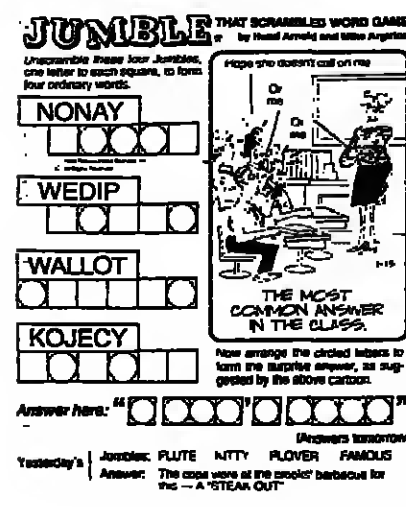
Knicks 98, Clippers 77: Patrick Ewing scored 31 points and New York outscored Los Angeles, 29-15, in the third period to hand the visiting team

its sixth straight loss. John Starks scored eight of his 19 points during the third-period surge that broke the game open.

Nuggets 94, Pistons 86: Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf scored 10 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter as Denver extended host Detroit's losing streak to 10. It was the Nuggets' first win at Detroit since 1988.

Hornets 95, Suns 93: In Phoenix, Horsey Hawkins' 3-pointer with 2:46 left gave Charlotte the lead for good over the cold-shooting Suns. The Hornets held Phoenix to 15 points in the fourth quarter and handed the Suns their third home loss in 18 games. The Suns played without the injured Charles Barkley and Kevin Johnson; the Hornets were missing Alonzo Mourning and Larry Johnson.

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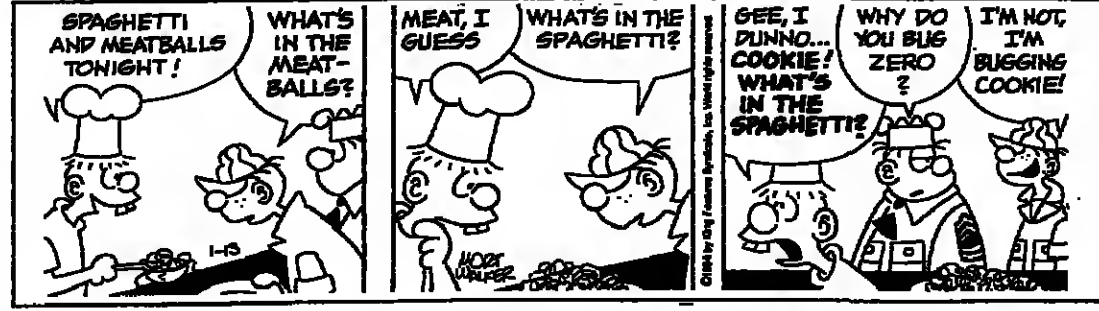
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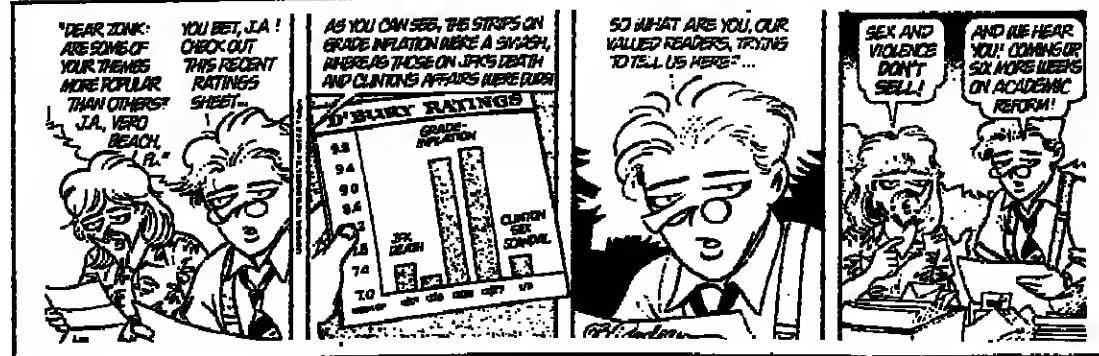
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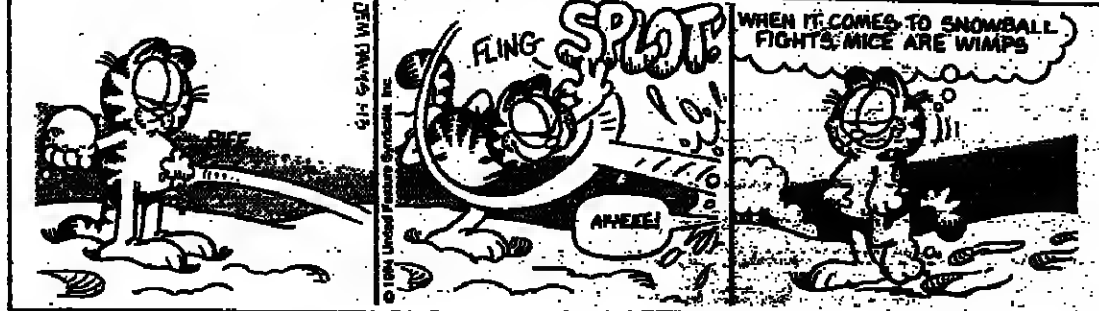
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GARFIELD



Reviews Are Mixed As NHL Reaches The Halfway Point

By Joe Lapointe

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — As the National Hockey League's regular season reaches the midway point, some trends are becoming clear.

Scoring is down, fighting is up, suspensions are numerous, expansion is a success, labor-management relations are touchy, key injuries are plentiful.

Pleasant Surprises
Expansion. This season's new teams may be hockey's best pair of first-year franchises ever. Partly because of a generous expansion draft, partly because of smart management and partly because of ownership with deep pockets, the Florida Panthers and the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim are more than respectable.

The Panthers are contending for a playoff berth, and the Ducks are a success at the gate and the souvenir stand.

Esa Tikkanen, whose career seemed in jeopardy when he finished poorly last season, has been one of the best players on the New York Rangers, one of the best teams. Can he keep it up?

Cam Neely, in the third year of a comeback from a major leg injury, is once again a prototype power forward for the Boston Bruins.

Brian Burke, hired as second in command behind Commissioner Gary Bettman, is cracking down on stick fouls, although his tolerance for fistfighting has encouraged more of it.

German Titov, a 28-year-old rookie from Russia who played last season in Finland, has helped keep Calgary in first place in the Pacific Division.

The Dallas Stars, with Bob Gainey, their general manager and coach, running a roster of mediocre talent, are challenging for the lead of the Central Division and gaining a following in a prime market.

Dominik Hasek of the Buffalo Sabres is the leading candidate for the Vezina Trophy as the top goaltender, although part of the reason for his success is the defensive style adopted by the Sabres after the injury to Pat LaFontaine.

Sergei Fedorov, the Detroit center, is the leading candidate for the Hart Trophy as most valuable player. Everyone knew he was good in his first three seasons, but his goal surge, total effort and spirited leadership have exceeded the hopes of even his strongest boosters.

Tampa Bay has drawn crowds of more than 20,000 in St. Petersburg for some home games in a domed baseball stadium. This is how the Detroit Pistons built a stable basketball franchise, first at the Silverdome, then at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

ESPN 2, if you can get it. The cable network adds some pizzazz with adventurous production values and, most of all, exposure for an underexposed sport.

Biggest Disappointments
A plague of injuries. Out for long stretches have been Mario Lemieux, Eric Lindros, Steve Yzerman and Mike Modano. The reasons include too many games, too much travel and too much ice time for stars brought about by the do-

bious "rest" they get during television timeouts.

Teemu Selanne. After a rookie season of 76 goals, the sophomore jinx was inevitable.

The goal drought. Last season at this point, each game averaged 7.30 goals. So far this year, the average is 6.06. Referees allow too much clutching and grabbing. Fighting majors are up from 619 to 909.

The officials' strike. Please, never again.

Los Angeles Kings. They sneaked into the Stanley Cup finals last season but squandered their chance to upset Montreal when Marty McSorley got caught using an illegal stick. The Kings' problems start at the top, where the owner is selling part of the team, the general manager is squabbling with the coach and the coach misses McSorley, who was traded to Pittsburgh.

Television ratings, down slightly from last year on ESPN.

Pavel Bure and his Vancouver Canucks.

What's Ahead
The return of Mario Lemieux. This league needs healthy, happy stars.

The trade logjam will break. Possible change of scenes for Ed Belfour of Chicago, Shayne Corson of Edmonton, Mike Gartner from the Rangers, Peter Nedved of Vancouver, Steve Duchesne and Mike Rucic of Quebec, three or four Islanders, several Los Angeles Kings players and one of those Calgary goalies.

More coach dismissals. So far, only Ted Green in Edmonton and Paul Holmgren in Hartford have left their bench positions, taking other roles with their organizations.

An influx of players after the Winter Olympics. Canada's Paul Kariya might help Anaheim gain the Stanley Cup playoffs or Maine capture the NCAA championship. Even Peter Stastny might return, to someone, from Slovakia.

A big shake-up in Chicago. Collective bargaining agreement between the players and the owners. A strike before the playoffs is just a matter of time.

Viktor Kozlov, the sixth selection in the 1993 NHL entry draft, has been cleared by Dynamo Moscow to negotiate a contract with the San Jose Sharks after the Russian hockey season. The Associated Press reported.

The Sharks announced an agreement with Dynamo to purchase the rights to the forward, who still might play for Russia in next month's Lillehammer Olympics.

Kozlov, who turns 19 next month, will play for Dynamo Moscow in the Russian League playoffs in mid-March.

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SPORTS

At L.A. Coliseum, the Unnecessary Roughness Is Mostly in the Stands

By Michael Wilbon

LOS ANGELES — The armed security guard insisted on walking me through the door of the Coliseum to my report. I pointed out about 100 yards from the press box to the car and said it would be necessary. It was three hours after the Los Angeles Raiders-Denver Broncos playoff game ended on Sunday night, and the guard insisted, even though it had been a busy enough day for the people hired to keep the peace. You know, arrests, breaking up fights, keeping people from the Coliseum, rushing people to ambulances.

That guy had not been shot or stabbed or beaten; he just fell out of the stands. Whatever happened to those laid-back, beer-sprout-eating surfers known as California sports fans? They are not here at National Football League games, I promise you. A Sunday afternoon in a Raider game is unlike an afternoon anywhere else. The people who think they're tough in Yankee Stadium would not even get out of their cars here. That paragon of football who buzzed the stadium has no idea how lucky he is that he didn't actually land in the Coliseum during Sunday's game. As the beating he would have received. As the Raider veteran Howie Long said afterward, "If there's one stadium in America you don't want to drive into, this is it."

The paragon, who probably have faced even worse than the guy wearing the John Elway jacket who stood up and strutted after Denver's first pass completion, only to be smashed senseless before the next play. Earlier, a Buffalo fan walked through the rather infamous Lot 6 wearing a Bills jersey. It was promptly ripped from his body, soaked in lighter fluid and set afire. Officers from the L.A. Police Department made the assembled tough take up a collection to pay for the jersey. It has also become a pregame ritual of sorts, there in that same Lot 6, to rub the bullet lodged in the stomach of one Raider fan.

RFK Stadium in Washington has lawyers: the Coliseum has drug dealers. Giants Stadium has Blue Bloods; the Coliseum has Crips and Bloods. One player for the Raiders said he would like to see club officials institute a gun-for-tickets exchange. The Raiders — with their colors of black and silver, the logo of a pirate with a patch over one eye and swords behind him, a team whose very existence is wrapped in intimidation, challenging authority and second chances — have always attracted those who color outside the lines. In Lot 6, a safe haven of sorts for people from various warring factions to declare a truce for eight Sunday afternoons a year, men play pregame football. Tackle, not touch. No pads. Sometimes barefoot, with broken glass everywhere. One Lot 6er told the Los Angeles Times that one of his favorite plays of the season occurred outside the stadium, where "a guy caught a pass and ran full speed into the grill of a Chevy." The talk here isn't about stock tips and politics; it's about having served hard time.

And, we should add, this isn't about race. It has to be the most racially and ethnically diverse crowd to gather at any stadium in this country, maybe the world. Diversity still can be frightening when, simply from the conversation going on in the stands, you can figure out that a significant portion of those in attendance have been in jail or should have been. Hoodlums would need lessons to learn how to look tough. Some of the Raiders' players say their wives and children have never seen them in a game. Too dangerous, too much marijuana in the air, too many stretchers on hand. High rollers? No Jack Nicholson, no Ryan Reynolds. Magic Johnson came to a game a couple of weeks ago. Stood on the Raiders' sideline. High rollers nowadays sit in sky-boxes, and the Coliseum doesn't have any. In fact, what is missing at the Coliseum is a moat. There are no night games there. People said it is simply too dangerous.

This isn't Washington or Denver or Chicago or even Pittsburgh, where these means mean impatiently for the night to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to secure a seat. The folks here, in most cases, are men and women who don't know until Saturday if they will have the \$35 it costs to attend Sunday's game. And then parking is another \$15 to \$25, depending on how close you can get and whether you want your car to be there when you get back. At the end of Sunday's game, a small army of policemen and privately hired security people encircled the closed end of the Coliseum. People screamed things at them you just cannot believe. Here and there you could see a parent and his or her children, a few people who looked as if they just as easily could have been touring a museum. But they were overwhelmed by tattoos and bare chests, by faces painted black and silver, by T-shirts that declared what fans of opposing teams might get done to them. They poured happily into some of L.A.'s most unsettled and violent streets, many if not most of them to lives a far sight tougher than any football game.

Giants vs. 49ers: An NFC Reunion

By Mike Freeman

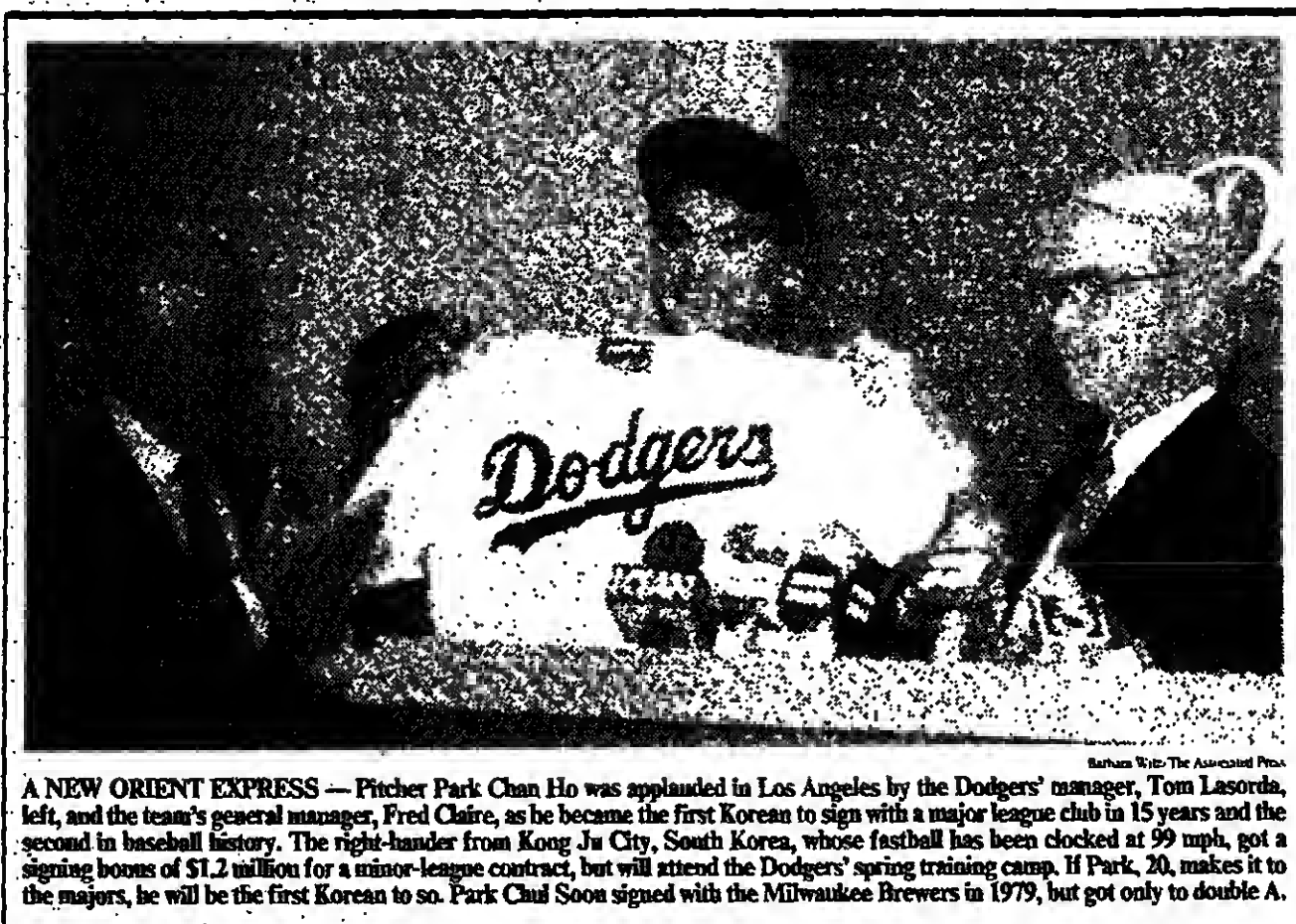
EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey — They are, as Lawrence Taylor said, old friends. The San Francisco 49ers and the New York Giants have gone against each other so many times in the post-season that it's as if the 49ers are in the Giants' division. But they aren't the kind of friends who invite the other over for dinner to meet the family.

If the past is any indication, when the Giants and 49ers meet on Saturday at Candlestick Park in a National Football Conference playoff game, it will not only be an exciting game. Based on what the winner has done in the past, it could mean a Super Bowl trip for the victor. Dan Reeves, the coach of the Giants, and George Seifert, his counterpart with the 49ers, using coach-speak, have each proclaimed the other team the best in the NFL. Way galaxy and as unbeatable as Godzilla.

"We know each other," Taylor said. "It's only fitting that we meet each other again." The Giants and 49ers have met five times in the playoffs — 1981, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1990, and the winner in four of those games has gone on to win the Super Bowl. The one year that didn't happen was in 1985, when the Giants beat San Francisco in a wild-card game, then lost to Chicago in the divisional round. The 49ers won the Super Bowl that year.

"We've played each other so often that we're like old friends," Seifert said. "It seems like Phil Simms has been with the Giants since I was in high school." The Giants and 49ers are actually closer than you might think. Mike Shanahan, the offensive coordinator for the 49ers, was in the same position under Reeves when the two were in Denver — until Reeves fired him. The man responsible for coming up with a plan to stop the best defense in football, the Giants' defensive coordinator, Mike Nolan, was on the Denver staff when Shanahan was still there. The 49ers have noticed that the Giants have some of the plays Reeves used in Denver.

"We go see plays he used in Denver, and sometimes a gimmick play," Seifert said. "He's a strong-willed coach and that's something he has given to his players." The two teams have been involved in some great games, that have featured some great moments. One of them was the conference championship game in Candlestick Park, 15-13 on five field goals by Matt Bahr, the game-winning kick from 42 yards away as time ran out. The Giants' quarterback in that game was Jeff Hostetler. The coach was Bill Parcells. In the 1986 post-season, the Giants knocked the 49ers out of the playoffs, and Joe Montana, out of the game, and a 49-3 rout at Giants Stadium on Dec. 29. In 1990, the Giants coach was Ray Parcells, and a 49-20 rout in the Super Bowl. There is little doubt, what the Giants will do? "They have an explosive offense," said guard William Roberts. "Our key is to keep them off



A NEW ORIENT EXPRESS — Pitcher Park Chan Ho was applauded in Los Angeles by the Dodgers' manager, Tom Lasorda, left, and the team's general manager, Fred Claire, as he became the first Korean to sign with a major league club in 15 years and the second in baseball history. The right-hander from Kook Joo City, South Korea, whose fastball has been clocked at 99 mph, got a signing bonus of \$1.2 million for a minor-league contract, but will attend the Dodgers' spring training camp. If Park, 20, makes it to the majors, he will be the first Korean to sign with the Milwaukee Brewers in 1979, but got only a double A.

the field. Instead of 3 points, we need to get 7. It's going to come down to our running game. We want to dictate the tempo." But will Steve Young and Jerry Rice let them? ■ They'd Done It Before ■ Mike Lamb of Los Angeles radio station KMPX was wondering how much it would cost for the Los Angeles Rams to move to Baltimore, so as part of an on-air bit he called the Mayflower World-Wide Moving office in Baltimore and a woman named Edna came on the line. The Los Angeles Times reported.

"What is it you want to move?" Edna asked. "Some office equipment, some weights, actually quite a bit of stuff," Lamb said. "You ever moved a sports team before?" Edna: "Yeah, we moved the Colts. I mean our company did." Lamb, seeing he had a live one: "Well, oow you can't let anybody, but we're looking into moving the Rams to Baltimore and need to know how much it would cost." Edna: "Sure, just fax me an invoice. You can sign it with a phony name if you like. Sign it Joe Smith."

Edna's guestimate was \$25,000. ■ Bill Polian, a two-time NFL executive of the year as the man credited with converting the Buffalo Bills from losers to NFL contenders, was named general manager Wednesday of the Carolina Panthers expansion team. Polian, 51, will step down as the NFL's vice president of football development to take the Charlotte job. He has been a widely sought commodity since his controversial firing by the Bills' owner, Ralph Wilson, following last season's 5-17 Super Bowl loss to the Dallas Cowboys. It was Buffalo's third consecutive Super Bowl defeat.

Arrests Are Said To Be Imminent in Attack on Kerrigan

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Oregon — Law enforcement sources said Wednesday that the FBI would announce arrests later in the day in relation to last week's attack on U.S. Olympic figure skater Nancy Kerrigan. Dewey Blanton, a spokesman for Kerrigan, said that the skater's family "was informed by the FBI of an impending development."

That followed a report by the Portland, Oregonian newspaper that the FBI was investigating allegations that the husband of figure skater Tonya Harding and her bodyguard arranged Thursday's attack on Kerrigan. A Portland minister told investigators he had listened to a tape recording of Harding's husband and bodyguard plotting with a third man, described as a "hit man" from Arizona, to injure Kerrigan. It was not clear if the announcements were related to The Oregonian's report. Kerrigan was struck on the leg after a practice session last Thursday, suffering severe bruises that forced her to withdraw from the U.S. national championships in Detroit. The championships also serve as the U.S. Olympic trials.

The International Committee of the U.S. Figure Skating Association named Kerrigan to the Olympic team along with Harding, who won the U.S. championship. Harding's husband, Jeff Gillooly, acknowledged he was being investigated, but told the Oregonian that he was not involved in the Kerrigan attack. "I wouldn't do that," Gillooly said. "I have more faith in my wife than to bump off her competition." Harding's bodyguard, Shawn Eric Eckardt, called the allegations "absurd." There was no indication that Harding had any involvement in the attack or knew anything about it, the newspaper said. The minister, Eugene C. Saunders, told investigators an acquaintance played the tape recording for him, the newspaper reported. Saunders turned to Gary Crowe, a private investigator, and told him about the alleged plot. According to what Saunders told Crowe about the tape, a man with connections to Harding had approached Saunders's acquaintance and asked him to arrange an "accident" that would knock Kerrigan out of the competition. Crowe said Saunders's acquaintance became worried after receiving threats from the Arizona man because the man who allegedly hired the "hit" had failed to pay him. Efforts to find Saunders early Wednesday were unsuccessful. There is no phone listing for Eugene C. Saunders in the Portland area. Bart Gori, spokesman for the FBI in Oregon, told The Oregonian that "the events surrounding this attack possibly involved a federal violation. I don't want to go beyond that." Gori said Wednesday morning he expected further information would be released later in the day, but did not expect any developments that would prevent Harding from leaving Portland for a week-end competition in Virginia. Saunders retained a lawyer and went to the authorities Monday afternoon. The Oregonian said, adding that, after questioning him, the FBI talked to Crowe on Tuesday. Detroit police, and later FBI agents, questioned all skaters and coaches at the Olympic trials. Harding and Gillooly talked to FBI agents in Detroit and checked in again with them Tuesday, Harding said. Gillooly said he understood why the FBI had to investigate him. "It's their job to follow up on this," Gillooly said. "Nobody likes being investigated by the FBI. But I understand their need to investigate."

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

New York	21	9
Orlando	19	11
Miami	14	16
New Jersey	12	18
Philadelphia	10	20
Boston	10	20
Washington	10	20

Central Division

Atlanta	22	7
Chicago	21	8
Charlotte	19	10
Indiana	17	12
Cleveland	13	16
Washington	12	17
Detroit	8	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

Portland	21	9
Utah	20	10
San Antonio	19	11
Dallas	18	12
Phoenix	17	13
Los Angeles	16	14
San Diego	15	15

Northwest Division

Seattle	21	9
Phoenix	20	10
Portland	19	11
San Antonio	18	12
Dallas	17	13
Phoenix	16	14
Los Angeles	15	15

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

LA Lakers	103	95	San Antonio	103	95
NY Knicks	103	95	San Antonio	103	95
LA Lakers	103	95	San Antonio	103	95

FOOTBALL

NFL Standings

AFC

AFC East

New England	10	3
Buffalo	9	4
Indianapolis	8	5
Pittsburgh	7	6
Cincinnati	6	7

AFC Central

San Francisco	10	3
Seattle	9	4
San Diego	8	5
Los Angeles	7	6
San Francisco	6	7

AFC West

San Francisco	10	3
Seattle	9	4
San Diego	8	5
Los Angeles	7	6
San Francisco	6	7

NFC

NFC East

San Francisco	10	3
Seattle	9	4
San Diego	8	5
Los Angeles	7	6
San Francisco	6	7

NFC Central

San Francisco	10	3
Seattle	9	4
San Diego	8	5
Los Angeles	7	6
San Francisco	6	7

NFC West

San Francisco	10	3
Seattle	9	4
San Diego	8	5
Los Angeles	7	6
San Francisco	6	7

BASEBALL

MLB Standings

American League

AL East

New York Yankees	10	3
Boston Red Sox	9	4
Los Angeles Angels	8	5
Seattle Mariners	7	6
San Francisco Giants	6	7

AL Central

San Francisco	10	3
Seattle	9	4
San Diego	8	5
Los Angeles	7	6
San Francisco	6	7

AL West

San Francisco	10	3
Seattle	9	4
San Diego	8	5
Los Angeles	7	6
San Francisco	6	7

National League

NL East

San Francisco	10	3
Seattle	9	4
San Diego	8	5
Los Angeles	7	6
San Francisco	6	7

NL Central

San Francisco	10	3
Seattle	9	4
San Diego	8	5
Los Angeles	7	6
San Francisco	6	7

NL West

San Francisco	10	3
Seattle	9	4
San Diego	8	5
Los Angeles	7	6
San Francisco	6	7

HOCKEY

NHL Standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

New York Rangers	10	3
Boston Bruins	9	4
Los Angeles Angels	8	5
Seattle Mariners	7	6
San Francisco Giants	6	7

Central Division

San Francisco	10	3
Seattle	9	4
San Diego	8	5
Los Angeles	7	6
San Francisco	6	7

Western Conference

Pacific Division

Portland	21	9
Utah	20	10
San Antonio	19	11
Dallas	18	12
Phoenix	17	13
Los Angeles	16	14
San Diego	15	15

Northwest Division

Seattle	21	9
Phoenix	20	10
Portland	19	11
San Antonio	18	12
Dallas	17	13
Phoenix	16	14
Los Angeles	15	15

SOCCER

World Cup Qualifiers

CONCACAF

North America

USA	10	3
Canada	9	4
Mexico	8	5
Costa Rica	7	6
Guatemala	6	7

South America

Brazil	10	3
Argentina	9	4
Colombia	8	5
Venezuela	7	6
Peru	6	7

Europe

Italy	10	3
France	9	4
Germany	8	5
Spain	7	6
England	6	7

Africa

Nigeria	10	3
Senegal	9	4
Ghana	8	5
Sierra Leone	7	6
Liberia	6	7

Oceania

Australia	10	3
New Zealand	9	4
South Korea	8	5
Japan	7	6
China	6	7

WRESTLING

World Championships

Freestyle

USA	10	3
Canada	9	4
Mexico	8	5
Costa Rica	7	6
Guatemala	6	7

Grieco-Roman

USA	10	3
Canada	9	4
Mexico	8	5
Costa Rica	7	6
Guatemala	6	7

Women's

USA	10	3
Canada	9	4
Mexico	8	5
Costa Rica	7	6
Guatemala	6	7

Paralympics

USA	10	3
Canada	9	4
Mexico	8	5
Costa Rica	7	6
Guatemala	6	7

World Cup

USA	10	3
Canada	9	4
Mexico	8	5
Costa Rica	7	6
Guatemala	6	7

World Cup

USA	10	3
Canada	9	4
Mexico	8	5
Costa Rica	7	6
Guatemala	6	7

World Cup

USA	10	3
Canada	9	4
Mexico	8	5
Costa Rica	7	6
Guatemala	6	7

World Cup

pion Wilfredo Vasquez of Puerto Rico on
aid Wednesday.

ART BUCHWALD

All Hands Below Deck

WASHINGTON — The words that seem to be popping up all over Washington recently are "damage control." When discussing the president's difficulties with his investment in Whitewater, it is generally agreed that the problem is not the issue itself. The damage control is what's causing all the trouble.

Every president has highly trained damage control teams that are expected to minimize any situation that could embarrass him.

As on a ship, the damage-control team is located below deck — in the boiler room of the White House. They are in touch with the top officers on deck who are steering the boat through the treacherous rocks of the scandal. When the alarm goes off, the damage-control team, wearing masks and oxygen tanks, do a survey to find out how bad things are.



Buchwald

Harris Block, a senior damage-control officer, speaks up to the bridge. "There is a small leak in the boiler."

Fouquet's Owner Is Fined \$6,800

PARIS — A court fined a co-owner Fouquet's 40,000 francs on Wednesday after inspectors found that the restaurant on the Champs-Élysées had stocked frozen "fresh" food and had roaches in the kitchen.

The co-owner, Maurice Mollati, 73, said his accusers were "trying once again to attack one of the last bastions of French gastronomy on the Champs-Élysées." Although Fouquet's is seen as one of Paris's most prestigious restaurants, the Michelin guide gives it a star. The fine amounted to \$6,800. Fouquet's also was cited for buying "farm fresh" cheese from a local outlet. Because of illness, Mr. Mollati's wife, who as co-owner faces similar charges, will not appear in court until March 23.

boiler and there are Whitewater papers floating all around."

"Can you plug it?" the executive officer asks from outside.

"It's too late. The leak is spreading," Block tells him.

"What do you advise?"

"We could bring down some divers from the Justice Department to gather what there is and get it off the ship."

"Good idea. And then deep-six the files."

But the damage-control leader says, "Too many people know about the files, and if they are dumped it might appear that we are covering up and that could lead to a court-martial."

A White House official shouts, "Media ship off the port side. They request permission to board and question the captain on why the ship of state is in such treacherous waters."

Block says, "Don't let them come on board. Send over six damage-control officers to deny what happened."

"Aye, aye, sir. Attention, media ship. All questions regarding damage to our vessel must be relayed to the Justice Department. They're the only ones who understand why we're taking on so much water."

A radio man speaks to the executive officer, "Sir, they want to appoint a special officer to examine all the papers involved with the accident and to recommend court-martial charges against those who may be responsible for Whitewater."

The officer responds, "That's out of the question. Send back word that we can investigate our own accidents. Our damage-control people are the best in the business."

"That may not fly, sir. We should come up with something else."

"Tell them we're going to cooperate in any way possible, but they can't board the ship until next Tuesday."

"Why next Tuesday?"

"So that we can get the ship all cleaned up and not have any huge hanging around."

"Steady as she goes."

"Hard right rudder."

Executive officer to helmsman, "Remind me to send our damage-control team a well-done."

By John Rockwell

New York Times Service

WARSAW — At a recent conference in France on the future of European film, the Polish director Krzysztof Zanussi took a pessimistic line. Freedom, he said, had proven a very mixed blessing for the Polish film industry. Protective barriers had been lowered and Hollywood had conquered all.

"Before, we were dominated by the Russians," he said. "Now, it's the Americans." With an inflation rate of 35 percent and steady devaluation of the zloty, with a worldwide recession and uncertain experience in developing private enterprises, the Polish film industry might indeed seem in trouble. Its best-known directors — Zanussi, Krzysztof Kieslowski, Agnieszka Holland and Andrzej Wajda — either lie low or work abroad.

In 1993, the 10 most popular films in Poland were American. Yet movies keep getting made here, more each year, and people keep paying money to see them. The Communist victory at the Polish polls this fall is unlikely to change that. New Polish films may not all be the earnest moral explorations or stirring dissident manifestos of yesterday. But they appeal on a visceral level to an audience grown cynical from the machinations of their politicians or purblind from their new-found freedoms.

Two especially popular Polish films of the last two years, not classy enough for the major Western film festivals or accessible enough for Western distribution, can speak for the state of Polish film today. And their producers offer varying yet complementary strategies to confront the Hollywood behemoth.

"Pigs" (the producers' equivalent of the original "Dogs," a Polish epithet for the police) is a story of corrupt, brutal, cynical former Communist secret policemen confronting the new realities of contemporary Poland. It won the Golden Duet (Poland's improbably named version of the Oscar) for best director (Wladyslaw Pasikowski) and best actor (Boguslaw Linda) in 1992.

"The Kidnapping of Agata," based on a true story, is a 1993 film about a Polish politician who accuses his daughter's boyfriend of kidnapping, after the two young lovers run off together. The film offers delightful performances, modest but overt sensuality, a trenchant look at the abuse of power and a light touch that fails to prepare one for the brutal ending. At a recent Warsaw screening, a mostly teenage audience loved it.

"Pigs" was produced by Zebra Film Productions, founded in 1989 and still technically owned by the state, and hence a nonprofit holdover from the former Communist system. Two of its



Marek Kondrat and Boguslaw Linda in scene from the Polish film "Pigs."

three chief executives, Jacek Bromski and Jacek Moczydlowski (the third is on leave teaching in New York), speak with a residue of dissident idealism of the need to foster young directors and to make serious films that resist the commercial ethos.

"Agata" is a production of Heritage Films, an enthusiastically capitalist venture of Lew Rywin, who attended a Brooklyn high school before he was deported from the United States as an illegal alien and who served as Steven Spielberg's Polish line producer for "Schindler's List."

Rywin has set up his office as a sort of homage to cigar-chomping Hollywood studio bosses of yore. Yet he, too, has been involved in high-art projects, notably Kieslowski's 10-part series of hourlong films called "Decalogue," made for Polish television, and Wajda's last three films.

Perhaps because of his experience in the United States, his fluent English and, now, his Spielberg cachet, Rywin professes confidence that he can work with Hollywood.

"I cannot complain," he said. "My portfolio is full. If a train is coming your way, you can either be crushed by it or you can jump on it."

Zanussi was hardly so buoyant, and neither was Moczydlowski. Like so many former dissidents, he and his partner felt at sea with their new freedoms, lamenting the loss of the intensity and excitement of their dissident years.

"Under communism, film was the freest way to express ideas," Moczydlowski said. "Of course there was censorship. We had to figure out a way to say what people wanted to hear without saying it specifically. It was a game of wits. Now that anything can be said in the open, there's nobody to fight against. We don't know what stories people want us to tell them."

Whether the production is public or private, nearly all movies in Poland are seeded with a grant of approximately \$250,000 from the Ministry of Culture and then require additional outside investment. The

trouble is, the Polish audience by itself is not enough to reward investors. Capital and audiences must be sought outside Poland, which dilutes the native film product.

"There is no way I can hope to return my investment if I address myself solely to the Polish market," Rywin said. That has led to most film producers expanding to television or to serving as local coordinators for spectacles bankrolled from abroad. "Poland is taking advantage of the Yugoslav situation," Rywin said. "Before, most American producers would go there to do period pieces. Now, they go to Poland or Russia."

The number of films produced in Poland has actually risen steadily, according to the Ministry of Culture's State Cinematography Committee, from 22 in 1990 to 25 in 1991 to 28 in 1992 (the 1993 figure is not yet in). But Polish film attendance has plummeted, meaning that a No. 1 box-office hit, even if it is an American film, sells fewer tickets than before. From 38 million in 1990, overall annual attendance dropped to 18 million in 1991 and 11 million in 1992. The ministry estimates that 1993 will show a rebound to 15 million.

The problem is partly the recession and inflation, with ticket prices leaping from 20 cents in 1990 to \$2 now. And partly, Rywin argues, it has to do with the limited number and poor condition of Polish theaters.

There is also more or less rampant piracy, although Rywin places less weight on that than do the Zebra executives. According to them, Poland has the highest per-capita number of video cassette players in Europe, the majority of available cassettes are illicit and their use has severely depressed film attendance. On Jan. 7, the Polish parliament finally passed a copyright law intended to curb the piracy of films.

For Rywin, who shares with the Zebra team a profound lack of concern about the resurgent Polish Communists, the only way to survive is to adjust. "We must remain open to the products of the West," he said. "I'm not afraid of American products. There's room for everybody."

Like so many East European intellectuals, he longs for a system of values in which profitability is not paramount. "For us, culture was a substitute for everything else," he said.

"When I was a teenager, we could go to the cinema and see everything by Fellini or Bergman. We didn't have anything else to do. We had no money, and cinema was cheap. A director could go to a car factory and show his film and have a very interesting discussion."

"Now, we are losing this. Go to Belgium and ask a doctor who is Bergman and he won't know. It's a consumption society in the West, and now here, too. Young people just go to the cinema to have fun."

PEOPLE

Tardy Marlon Memoirs Sighted for Next Fall

Harold M. Evans, the head of the Random House adult trade division, can finally say for certain when the company plans to publish Marlon Brando's long overdue, much fretted about and very expensive — maybe \$5 million worth — memoirs: in the fall. Evans said that Brando had been working for more than a year with Robert Lindsey, who ghostwrote former President Ronald Reagan's memoirs, and that the manuscript is expected by the end of January. Holding his breath?

The list according to Mr. Blackwell: Glenn Close's look has her on "Nightmare Alley" and Rosie Perez is "a funny-faunting fiasco." Close ends up on the top of the former designer's annual worst-dressed women list. Next up was Julia Roberts ("a barefoot bride"), followed by Diana Ross ("a Marianne meter maid — starting in a cancan revue"), Perez and Susan Sarandon ("peckish Sue"). . . . Meanwhile, Marilyn Quisley and Jane Fonda head up Mr. Brando's list of "five women who let us down." Quisley for not practicing what she preaches and Fonda for becoming one of the "least liberated" famous women. The five also included the actress Jennifer Grey, the model Anna Nicole Smith and Princess Masako of Japan for giving up a career in diplomacy to marry Crown Prince Naruhito.

George Burns has two years to go before his 100th birthday, and the party already is a sellout. The comedian signed in November to play three shows at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas on Jan. 19 to 21, 1996. His birthday is Jan. 20.

The director Oliver Stone chides Americans for being more worried about violence in movies than they are about real-life violence. In an interview in Entertainment Weekly, Stone noted reports that people had walked out of his latest Vietnam film, "Heaven and Earth," because they were put off by a torture scene. "I'm amazed Americans would be so squeamish," he said. "What wimps! How can you deny life?"

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED
Appears on Pages 5 & 15

WEATHER

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Europe	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low	Day After	High	Low
Algeria	19/56	11/52	5	19/56	12/53	5	19/56	12/53	5
Amsterdam	64/83	37/51	8	64/83	37/51	8	64/83	37/51	8
Antwerp	74/84	27/39	8	74/84	27/39	8	74/84	27/39	8
Athens	14/57	8/46	17	14/57	8/46	17	14/57	8/46	17
Bamberg	10/61	3/48	17	10/61	3/48	17	10/61	3/48	17
Berlin	64/83	12/34	8	64/83	12/34	8	64/83	12/34	8
Bombay	1/58	-1/51	37	1/58	-1/51	37	1/58	-1/51	37
Buenos Aires	64/83	27/34	8	64/83	27/34	8	64/83	27/34	8
Calcutta	4/39	2/30	34	4/39	2/30	34	4/39	2/30	34
Canton	8/41	1/24	37	8/41	1/24	37	8/41	1/24	37
Cebu	11/70	12/53	5	11/70	12/53	5	11/70	12/53	5
Colon	8/41	3/27	37	8/41	3/27	37	8/41	3/27	37
Dallas	64/83	27/34	8	64/83	27/34	8	64/83	27/34	8
Edinburgh	64/83	27/34	8	64/83	27/34	8	64/83	27/34	8
Geneva	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Hankow	64/83	27/34	8	64/83	27/34	8	64/83	27/34	8
Hong Kong	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Kobe	64/83	27/34	8	64/83	27/34	8	64/83	27/34	8
London	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Los Angeles	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Manila	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Moscow	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Mumbai	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Nairobi	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Paris	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Perth	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Port of Spain	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
San Francisco	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Singapore	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Sydney	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Taipei	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Tokyo	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12
Yokohama	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12	12/53	7/44	12

North America
A few inches of snow are likely from New York City to Boston Friday. Bitterly cold air will sweep across the entire eastern half of the nation over the weekend. Heavy snow squalls will pile up downwind of the Great Lakes. The West will have sunny, mild weather this weekend.

Middle East
Dry, chilly weather over the weekend. A storm will bring heavy rain to southwestern Turkey Friday. London and Paris through Frankfurt will turn colder Friday into the weekend with a few snow flurries by Sunday. Southeastern Europe will be mild with showers.

Latin America
Dry, chilly weather over the weekend. A storm will bring heavy rain to southwestern Turkey Friday. London and Paris through Frankfurt will turn colder Friday into the weekend with a few snow flurries by Sunday. Southeastern Europe will be mild with showers.

Asia
Dry, chilly weather over the weekend. A storm will bring heavy rain to southwestern Turkey Friday. London and Paris through Frankfurt will turn colder Friday into the weekend with a few snow flurries by Sunday. Southeastern Europe will be mild with showers.

Africa
Dry, chilly weather over the weekend. A storm will bring heavy rain to southwestern Turkey Friday. London and Paris through Frankfurt will turn colder Friday into the weekend with a few snow flurries by Sunday. Southeastern Europe will be mild with showers.

Oceania
Dry, chilly weather over the weekend. A storm will bring heavy rain to southwestern Turkey Friday. London and Paris through Frankfurt will turn colder Friday into the weekend with a few snow flurries by Sunday. Southeastern Europe will be mild with showers.

Legend: s=sunny, c=partly cloudy, cl=cloudy, sh=showers, f=thunderstorms, r=rain, s=snow, fl=sleet, sn=snow, h=ice, w=weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by Accu-Weather, Inc. © 1994

WEEKEND SKI REPORT

Resort	Depth L. U	Mtn. Plates	Res. Status	Snow Mkng	Last Snow	Comments	Resort	Depth L. U	Mtn. Plates	Res. Status	Snow Mkng	Last Snow	Comments	
Andorra							Convinia	120	430	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Excellent skiing
Pin de la Case	85	135	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Corvatsch	40	130	Good	Open	Var	6/1	World cup racing this weekend
Soldeu	100	145	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Courmayeur	20	240	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Very good skiing
Austria							Selva	55	100	Good	Open	Var	8/1	All lifts and pistes open
Ischgl	0	30	Worm	Clad	Var	11/1	Seefeld	80	150	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	All lifts open, good skiing
Kitzbühel	25	90	Good	Open	Var	5/1	Sierra Nevada	105	145	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Most lifts and all pistes open
Saalfelden	55	95	Good	Open	Powd	4/1	Spain							
Schladming	30	120	Fair	Worm	Hy	4/1	Thyssen							
St. Anton	50	200	Fair	Ice	Var	4/1	Banff/Invermere	120	230	Good	Open	Var	11/1	All lifts and pistes open
France							Switzerland							
Alpe d'Huez	140	220	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Ardenne	80	85	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	All lifts open, very good skiing
Les Arcs	120	320	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Crans Montana	50	180	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Excellent skiing
Avoriaz	140	180	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Davos	55	130	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	All lifts open, good skiing
Courmayeur	175	230	Good	Open	Var	11/1	Grindelwald	5	60	Good	Clad	Powd	11/1	Better skiing with new snow
Chamonix	65	380	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Gstaad	20	70	Good	Open	Var	11/1	Sprinkling of new snow
Courchevel	145	180	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	St. Moritz	110	170	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Excellent skiing everywhere
La Plagne	120	300	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Wengen	10	30	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Fresh snow, improved skiing
Flaine	85	290	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Zermatt	100	250	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Excellent skiing
Isola	330	300	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	U.S.							
Méribel	80	180	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Aspen	88	108	Good	Open	Var	6/1	All lifts open, good skiing
Les Deux Alpes	105	330	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Breckenridge	115	140	Good	Open	Powd	8/1	Good skiing on packed powder
Serre Chevalier	85	270	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Killington	70	180	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Great skiing, plenty of new snow
Tignes	145	325	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Marathon	25	90	Fair	Open	Powd	N.A.	Most lifts open, trails still ok
Val d'Isère	115	325	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Park City	90	135	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	All lifts open, good skiing
Val Thorens	150	360	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Steamboat	120	180	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	Most lifts open, great skiing
Germany							Telluride	88	100	Good	Open	Var	8/1	All lifts open, very good skiing
Garmisch	5	145	Good	Clad	Var	4/1	Vail	100	133	Good	Open	Powd	11/1	All lifts and back bowls open
Obertauern	2	130	Good	Some	Var	1/1	Key LU Depth							
Italy														
Bormio	30	145	Good	Open	Var	8/1								